How God's People Turned From Him

Greg Kline · Malachi 1:1–3:15

INTRODUCTION

- There arose a generation that did not know God.
- This is the people who were ancestors of those who had been in captivity. These are people who should have known better.
- What we're going to talk about this morning, is how did God's people turn from him?

1 They Doubted the Love of God

Malachi 1:1–5; Romans 5:8; Matthew 6:25–33

- What was Malachi's audience comprised of? Comprised of people who doubted God.
- They doubted the love of God. Now, how could that be? This is the God who provided everything for them.
- God demonstrates his own love towards us, and that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We need to always know that God loves us.

2 They Did Not Honor God

Malachi 1:6–14; Romans 1:21; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

- You see that Malachi's audience didn't just doubt God's love. They did not honor God.
- You don't offer second best to the best. If they're not going to give that to their governor, why would they give that to our God?
- I would suggest, brothers and sisters, we all know God. The question is, do I honor him as God?
- If I honor him as God, he gets my best, not my leftover.

3 They Profaned God's Covenant

Malachi 2:1–9; Malachi 2:11–16; Matthew 19

- If we first fear God and truly view his name in awe, truly recognize God for who he is, that what we find in verse 6 will follow.
- The people rejected God in the way of marriage and divorce for no other reason than because they wanted to.
- They profaned the covenant God had made with them.
- We come up with all sorts of ways that you can be divorced and remarried, and yet Jesus says there is but one.

4 You Have Wearied the Lord With Your Words

Malachi 2:17; 2 Peter 3; Hebrews 5:14

- You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, How have we wearied him?

- By saying, everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them. Or by asking, where is the God of justice?
- Fact is not subjective. It is objective. It is objective only because it comes from God.
- Don't we sometimes choose sin over holiness? That's wearying God.

5 Will Man Rob God?

Malachi 3:5–9

- Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, How have we robbed you? And your tithes and contributions.
- They had failed to give God both the respect and the sacrifices that he demanded of them.
- God desires that I study my Bible, and when I choose not to do that, aren't I not robbing God of what is His?

6 You Have Said It Is Vain to Serve God

Malachi 3:13–15; Psalm 73

- Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, How have we spoken against you? You have said it is vain to serve God.
- I act that way, whether I would say that or not, or mentally accept that or not, when I choose sin over God.
- What is the profit of keeping his charge? We know scholastically, the answer to that is a great deal. To be with God forever.
- Those who are far from you shall perish. You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. But for me, it is good to be near God.

THE CHALLENGE

God doesn't want our pity, he wants our life. He doesn't want just some rote actions. He wants our heart, and he deserves it. And if we are going to be found pleasing to God, we must give that to him.

MY NOTES