The Heart of the Matter

Greg Kline · Malachi 1:6–14

INTRODUCTION

- When you love something, you don't have room for error. You don't have room for something second best.
- Malachi chapter 1 doesn't happen if the people of God are focused on how wonderful and mighty he is.

1 Offering the Sick, the Lame, and the Blind

Malachi 1:6–14; Hebrews 9:27

- When you offer blind animals and sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor.
- They're going to come up with all the ways they don't actually have to give their best to God.
- You only do that under one circumstance, and that's if you don't truly respect the God you're sacrificing to.
- How did a people who knew better get to the point at which their actions told more than their words?

2 The Priests Knew the Law but Profaned His Covenant

Malachi 2:1–9; Malachi 2:16–17

- If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you.
- My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him.
- In chapter 1, they were at least offering worship. And in chapter 2, the priest mentioned in verses 1 through 8 knew the law.
- You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, how have we wearied him?

3 They Robbed God

Malachi 3:6

- You cannot have an adulterous affair with idols and still worship me in good heart and clean conscience.
- They robbed God of the honor that was due to him. They robbed God of the sacrifices that were owed to him, the best of the best.
- If we remember that through Jesus' sacrifice, we have hope, it will change our life. We won't just check off boxes. We will live right because our motivation is proper.

4 We Can Do What's Right and Still Be Wrong

1 Corinthians 13:1–3; 2 Timothy 2

- I want to think for a moment about the heart of the matter, that we can do what's right and still be wrong.

- If I completely sacrifice everything I have, but have not love, what do I gain? Absolutely nothing.
- You can be 100% correct in every viewpoint you are espousing. But if you do it in a harsh or ungentle way or in an unloving fashion, what does Paul say that you gain? Nothing.
- It doesn't matter if it's okay. It matters, is it what's best?

5 We Love Because He First Loved Us

1 John 4:7–11; 1 John 4:17–21

- If we change our hearts, the actions will follow. If our hearts remain cold, the actions will be lukewarm.
- In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- God's worth it. He is worth giving our everything.
- If I just give Him the end of my day, the chopped off bits that are convenient, isn't that kind of like offering the lame, the sick, and the blind animals?
- The only sequence that makes sacrifice acceptable to God is when we purposely give him the glory and honor and credit that goes with the sacrifice.

6 Do Not Love the World

1 John 2:15–17

- The world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
- They're not from God, and what's happening to them? They are passing away. It won't last. Focus on things that endure.
- When we look back at our life, are we going to see memories where I walked with God? Where I accepted his love, life, and peace? Or will I only see a life lived for me?

THE CHALLENGE

Where have you been living? Where has your time been spent? For things that don't last, that don't matter? Or looking foremost, primarily and proactively to serve God and give him your best. Where is your heart today?

MY NOTES