

Give God the Glory

(Malachi 2:1-9 & Hebrews 7:23-28 & 1 Peter 2:4-9)

28-Oct-18

So this morning [evening] we're continuing our series on the OT book of Malachi (last book of OT)

So it would be good to have your Bibles turned to Malachi chapter 2

There's the usual sermon outline, in your bulletin, if you'd like to jot down notes.

Let me pray for God's help and understanding. Let's pray...

Intro/Glory

So our topic this morning [evening] is *Give God the Glory*

So we'd better define glory

[PowerPoint 1-Glory]

Praise, worship, and thanksgiving offered to a God

So basically praising, worshipping and thanking God - for who He is and what He has done and what He continues to do

The Priesthood of Israel (Malachi 2:1-9)

[PowerPoint 2a-no glory]

And we discovered last week the priests in Malachi's time were not giving glory to God - instead they were offering defiled and diseased sacrifices and giving God their 2nd best not their best

This week in our Bible passage from Malachi 2:1-9

There are two problems with the priests - in verse 2

[PowerPoint 2b-not listening/not honouring His name]

a) They are not listening to God and

b) Not honouring God's **name** - not giving glory to God

When we're talking about someone's good name - we're not just talking about their actual name - we're talking about their character and their reputation.

When it comes to God - who created everything and sustains everything and who is loving and compassionate and merciful holy and majestic and awesome

That's definitely someone to honour and give glory to

But the priests are not doing that

So their punishment is in verse 3

[PowerPoint 2c-punishment]

God will rebuke their descendants [alternative - cut off their grain] - and smear their faces with the dung from the animals being sacrificed during the various Jewish festivals and they will be carried off to the dung heap with the animal dung (not clear whether that's literal or metaphorical - but likely this is all symbolic of God's rejection of their disrespectful ministry to Him)

God explains the reason for this punishment in verse 4

[PowerPoint 2d-Covenant]

God wants to preserve His covenant with Levi

Levi was one of the 12 sons of Jacob

These 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel - and formed the nation of Israel - God's people

The tribe of Levi - were not given any portion of the land when they entered the Promised Land of Israel - but they were given a special job to be God's priests

God made a covenant [a binding agreement between God and various people in the Bible] - God made a covenant with the Levi tribe for them to be His priests and make animal sacrifices to God for the peoples' sin to be forgiven and they were to teach the people to follow God's way and turn away from sin.

God made Aaron the first priest of Israel - and Aaron's descendants (the Levites) continued this priesthood

And remember one of the reasons that the Israelites were exiled to Babylon (before Malachi's times) was because the priests didn't honour God and follow His commandments

And now they've returned from exile (in Malachi's times) - and they are back to their same disobedient ways

But God wants to preserve this covenant with the Levi priests - hence His warning here

According to verse 5 and 6 - this covenant was supposed to be a covenant of life and peace - and called for reverence to God - and revere (show deep respect) to His Holy name - and to remain upright and turn people away from sinning against God -that's a huge responsibility isn't it?

The priests are supposed to preserve knowledge of God -see v7 - that is to make sure the people know about God and know what His Holy Word says.

Why?

Because the priests are the messengers' of the Lord

[PowerPoint 2e-problem]

But instead there is a problem - see verses 8 and 9 - the priests have turned people away from God - and their teaching has caused people to stumble - and they have broken God's covenant of Levi. Not only that - they have not followed

God's ways and have shown favouritism when administering God's Law.

Favouritism doesn't work - it always leads to deceit and lies, which leads to jealousy, anger and revenge

All this leads to further punishment for the priests in verse 9

God will cause the priests to be despised and humiliated before all the people - basically they are publically made an example of - why? Because they are responsible for the people as God's shepherds to shepherd the people towards God - and because they have been bad shepherds - they need to be held to account

[PowerPoint 3-Application/Challenge]

Application - The priests are accountable. And in the same way church leaders today -are accountable for how their care for their flock - and they need to publically apologize - if they teach falsely - or lead people into sin - or allow people to be mistreated or abused

(pause)

[PowerPoint 3a] Application: Are we holding our Church leaders accountable - when they are not sticking to the teaching in God's Word - or when they are showing favouritism?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 3b] Application: Are we speaking up when there's something not right in our Church?

(pause)

[PowerPoint 3c] Application: Is our church and church leadership making public apologies when they have brought dishonour to God's name?

(pause)

The Permanent Priesthood (Hebrews 7:23-28)

As we move into our NT reading from Hebrews 7:23-28

Please turn your Bibles to Hebrews 7:23-28

The writer of Hebrews picks up this problem with the Priesthood of Israel

[PowerPoint 4a-problem with priests]

- And we see a major problem with the Priesthood of Israel
- Each priest is sinful - each priest dies and is replaced with another sinful priest
- And so the sacrifices for sin have to be repeated over and over - and as we saw last week sometimes these sacrifices were not as God prescribed
- And if we understand that we all sin and fall short of God's standards and if we understand that the wages of sin is death (spiritual and physical) - who is going to be able to save people from the punishment of sin?
- Ultimately the priesthood of Israel couldn't completely save the people from the punishment of God - and we can't save ourselves from the punishment of sin either

[PowerPoint 4b-Imperfect Priesthood]

- This imperfect priesthood of Israel was merely a shadow of a better and perfect and permanent priesthood to come
- That is the priesthood of Jesus
- It is a perfect priesthood - because He lives forever - see verse 24

[PowerPoint 4c-saves completely]

- So He is able to save completely - see verse 25 - rather than the band aid sacrifices of the Priesthood of Israel
- Jesus saves completely all those people who come to Him
- Because He is alive in Heaven - interceding for us [explain]
- Unlike the Priesthood of Israel - see v26 - Jesus is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners - i.e. completely sinless - and exalted by the Father in Heaven - and Jesus doesn't play favourites either. He's available to all!

[PowerPoint 4d-once and for all sacrifice]

- Jesus doesn't have to make sacrifices for His own sins - because He is perfect - and He doesn't have to repeat the sacrifice over and over like the Israelite priesthood - because He lives forever. So Jesus' sacrifice is a once and for all sacrifice - a FOREVER sacrifice
- All that is required is for people to come to HIM - and have their sins washed away
- No animals, no blood all over the altar - just Jesus' blood shed on the cross for sinners!

Application - So if you haven't already done so - will you come to Jesus to have your sins washed away once and for all?

(pause)

The Holy Priesthood (1 Peter 2:4-9)

So if we have Jesus and believe in Him - we can just sit back and relax - Jesus has done it all - we are free! Right?

YES and NO

Yes we are free

But NO - we don't just sit back and relax

There needs to be a response

Which is where our NT reading from 1 Peter 2:4-9 comes in...

[Please turn to 1 Peter 2:4-9]

[PowerPoint 5-Living stones]

Which says we are living stones (small s) attached to the living Stone (Big S) -
Jesus

We are part of a spiritual house

Built into a Holy Priesthood - we all priests (small P) with Jesus as the High
Priest (big H & big P)

Where Jesus is the cornerstone or foundation stone of this spiritual house

This cornerstone - Jesus - Peter says in v7 - was rejected by the people who
killed him and He is rejected by many even today

People who ignore Jesus and His message of forgiveness and eternal life -
stumble and fall - Peter says in verse 8.

[PowerPoint 6a-Holy Priesthood]

But people who believe in Jesus have a job to do

[PowerPoint 6b-Job]

See verse 9 - as a Royal Priesthood - with Jesus as our King - we are meant to
*declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful
light*

As priests - we are meant to attract people into the light of Jesus - by what we
say about Jesus and how we behave

[PowerPoint 6c-ambassadors]

Because as the Apostle Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:20 - we are ambassadors of Jesus - and our mission is to enable people to be **reconciled to God** - by believing in Jesus

That was supposed to be the job of the Israelite priesthood to obey God and enable people to be reconciled to God

They were supposed to be listening to God?

They were supposed to be honouring God's name and bringing Glory to Him

Application: As priests - we have the same job - to be obedient priests who teach people about Jesus and enable them to be reconciled to God - this will bring glory to God!

Application: The question is: are we being obedient in our job as priests? Do people see the light of Jesus in our lives - or do they still see dark remnants in us? Are we good ambassadors of Jesus? (Example of Joe Hockey)

Conclusion

So to conclude then - our whole purpose of living is to give glory to God

[PowerPoint 7-Conclusion]

Let me leave us with 1 Corinthians 10:31

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God

Let's give God the glory - in all we say and do!

Let's pray...