

Malachi 1-2:9

At the beginning of our passage Malachi asks the probing question, “If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the Lord Almighty.” Then the indictment, “It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name.” Unfortunately, what was true of the priests, was also true of the people (that will be the topic of the next two sermons).

The text from Malachi (1:6 – 2:9) is a challenge to the priests. Lest you think this message only applies to pastors or members of the clergy, let me remind you that the apostle Peter says, “You are a royal priesthood . . . a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his glorious light.” (I Pet. 2:9). So while application has particular relevance for those who provide visible leadership to God’s people, it has general application to all – because you represent God to the world.

Malachi presents a two-fold rebuke to the priests. In 1:6-14 he exposes the compromise the priests allowed by accepting blemished sacrifices. It says much about the status of their hearts toward God and diagnoses a similar ailment among the people for bringing such offerings. In chapter 2:1-9 Malachi moves deeper as he exposes the lack of true instruction which has led to compromised worship. Malachi has hard-hitting words b/c the situation is dire. I sense that our situation may be even more precarious.

Uniting this section are a series of statements pointing to the GREATNESS of our God. When we have a true and glorious view of God, it will inevitably change us. So . . .

Because We Serve a GREAT GOD . . .

- I. . . . Offer God acceptable sacrifices (1:6-14)
- II. . . . Listen to God’s instruction (2:1-9)

Conclusion: You will inspire others through your example