

## THE HONOR OF GOD

### What Are You Saying?

- I. **Malachi 1:6-7-They are dishonoring the Lord, despising and not valuing his things and yet they don't see how they are doing it and they don't see in what ways they are doing that**
  - A. Most people who are despising the things of God don't call it that so if you tell them they are they say, "No we are not."
    1. This area of dishonor or lightly esteeming the things of God is an area where you can think are honoring God, but you are not so we need for God show us so that we can get it corrected
  - B. When they asked the Lord to show them how and in what ways they were dishonoring him, He showed to them and he'd do the same for me and you
    1. Unless we ask the Lord to reveal it to us and show us we won't see the corrections we need to make in this area of honor
  - C. The deceptiveness of dishonor is that you don't see that you're doing it and nobody likes to think they are not honoring the Lord and treating Him and His things with the value and respect and they should
    1. Dishonor or not treating God and his things they way they should be treated is very easy to slip into and not even know it
- II. **Your honor is not measured in your good intentions or in how you think you honor God or in how much you say you honor God, but it's measured in how you treat Him and His things; Your honor for God is revealed in how you treat Him and His things**
  - A. How you treat God and His things says something about your honor for Him
    1. 7,12-Did they actually say, "The table of the Lord is worthless," with their mouths? I don't think so, but they said it with their actions or how they treated it; With their actions they are saying it's not worth it, it's not that important, and we don't value it that much (12AMP)
      - a. Sometimes you're saying it even if you're not saying it by how you treat God and His things
      - b. You might not be saying it with your mouth but the things you do speak so loudly that I can no longer hear what you say
      - c. You're saying it's not worth it by not being here, by not being on time, by not paying attention, by not being prepared, by not doing it with excellence
    2. Matthew 15:8, Matthew 6:21-Jesus said the people honor me with their lips, but their heart or what they treasure is far from me
      - a. You don't locate honor by looking at what a person says they honor, but rather by looking at what they value
    3. 14-Good intentions-Someone who profess to give God their best and their all, but when it comes time to move they don't

- B. How they are treating the things of God is literally saying the table of the Lord is worthless
  1. Worthless simply means not worth it; To them the table of the Lord wasn't worth the best and that's why they brought the lame; They said the table of the Lord is worthless; it's not worth the good bread and the good sacrifices
  2. The spirit of this here is that with these offerings they are saying to God you are not worth the good sacrifices, you are not worth our best and it's dishonor and despising because they don't value God and His things enough to give him the good/best sacrifice
  3. 3:13-14-They're saying God is and His things aren't worth it (His services, Fellowship with him, etc.)
- C. 12,13-In a routine it easy to lose honor because what we do over and over again becomes common and it's easy to let your standards slip
  1. Hebrews 7:27, 10:11-These priests brought offerings up here everyday and at some point through routine it became common and their standards fell it wasn't treated with the same respect that it once was because they do it all the time
  2. Through a routine things can become common and we got to be on guard to never allow God & His things to become common
  3. There's no faithfulness or honor in just showing up; that's what these people are doing – Faithfulness and honor is showing up everyday and giving God your very best

### **III. If there is no honor in what you are doing, then it won't be accepted**

- A. 8-God calls their offering evil; They are going to church and bringing an offering and God's saying it's EVIL
  1. Going through the motions and throwing God your scraps isn't going to be enough
  2. Scrap throwing going through motion people will not be promoted
  3. "They should just be thankful I showed up after all I'm a volunteer" – WRONG
- B. 13-It actually became drudgery to them; It wasn't that they weren't doing anything for the Lord, they were doing something but it contained no honor; They acted like making this sacrifice and bringing this offering was putting them out; that it was drudgery
  1. When you act like it's a drudgery what you are saying is it's not even worth my time
  2. *VOICE-Don't you see how boring all these required rituals are*
- C. You can be righteous before God and accepted by Him and your offering be unacceptable b/c you're not saved by what you do
- D. God's interested in your heart because that's where your treasure is, that's where your honor is, that's where you are; If you give him an offering like this, there's no honor it, your heart is not in it and you're not in it
  1. They are not in this offering, their heart is not in this offering because they don't care about God and his things

2. God's after you because this gives him access to do the things He wants to do in your life; but if Him and His things mean nothing to you then dishonor will disable Him and deny Him access in your life
- E. 10-The Lord is saying if you're going to give me some second rate, lukewarm, half-hearted effort I'd rather have nothing from you
1. God's saying I'd wish you'd just shut the doors and bring nothing at all – Revelation 3:16
  2. God doesn't receive every offering and doesn't accept every offering; This is unacceptable to the Lord because it is devoid of honor
    - a. Is it possible to "do something for the Lord," and get no credit for it and it not be accepted by God because of the half-hearted effort with which you do it
    - b. This attitude, "It's good enough for the church," is unacceptable and reeks of dishonor
- F. Don't get into legalism and bondage where this is concerned – People say things like well nothing is good enough for the Lord and I guess you could never pray enough or give enough or read his word enough and that paints God out to be some unruly taskmaster and it's simply not true
1. God can be satisfied and he can be pleased with what you've done; Your best is good enough for the Lord
  2. You have to check your own heart when you've done something or when you're praying and you'll know in your own heart by the leading of the spirit when it's the Lord is satisfied and when it was enough and if you do what the spirit leads you to do then God is satisfied and you did do enough, read enough, pray enough

**IV. Malachi 1:8-The strongest manifestation of dishonor is that you are willing to do it from someone/thing else, but you're not for the Lord**

- A. The insinuation is that when they went to pay their taxes to their governor they didn't bring him these leftovers and scraps – They wouldn't do it for the governor, but not for
1. It was really a case of them honoring themselves above the Lord because if they would have brought that to the governor it would have threatened their own livelihood and well being and they were too important to themselves to let that happen so when it came time to pay taxes their own well-being was worth the good offering, but God wasn't
- B. What some are willing to do for others they are not willing to do for God: This dishonor of the highest order
1. The serious thing here is they were willing to do it for someone else (governor), but not for the Lord
  2. When you are willing to do things for your job, for your kids, for money, that you are not willing to do for God it shows more honor for those things than Him
  3. God gave them a natural example to show them that you value other things more than you value me; Some will do anything for their family, but won't wake up in the morning to spend time with me; Some will do anything for money, but won't go to church when I tell them to; Some will do anything

for their career, but won't serve in the church for me; Some will wake up early and stay up late, but not for me; Some will work long hours, but not for me

C. 11-God says I'll find somebody who's going to treat my stuff with honor

1. There's somebody out there who will honor God and treat his things the way they should be treated

**V. How God treats you is directly connected to whether or not you honor him and his things**

A. 2:9-God is treating them differently than He would have had they honored him

1. They do not value God and His things and these sacrifices anymore, but they used to at one time

B. 2:5-The Levites got off but God chose them originally because they did honor God and value God's things

1. Some are getting picked to do things that others are not because some value God's things more than others