



April 13 & 14, 2019

## Malachi's Take on What's Wrong

Book of Malachi

### Four Forms of Hypocrisy.

**Malachi 1:8** <sup>8</sup>"When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the Lord Almighty.

#### 1. *Half-hearted* worship.

**Malachi 2:10-11** <sup>10</sup>Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another? <sup>11</sup>Judah has been unfaithful...by marrying women who worship a foreign god.

**Malachi 2:16** <sup>16</sup>"The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the Lord Almighty.

#### 2. *Failed* relationships.

**Malachi 3:5** <sup>5</sup>"So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify...against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive the foreigners among you of justice, but do not fear me," says the Lord Almighty.

#### 3. *Neglecting* the Disadvantaged.

**Malachi 3:8, 10** <sup>8</sup>"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

#### 4. *Stingy* stewardship.

**Malachi 3:6-7, 10b** <sup>6</sup>"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. <sup>7b</sup>Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord Almighty. <sup>10b</sup>Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

#### 5. The answer is not to *try harder*, but to *turn sooner* to the God who will heal and provide.