

Malachi 2:10-16

We come now, in our study of Malachi to chapter 2:10-16. In our text today we will see that the Lord of Hosts takes careful note of the treacherous acts of His people, mercifully calls them to repentance, and graciously warns them to be watchful of falling back into such sin again.

Read/Pray

As we see in this text, the Lord of Hosts takes careful note of the treacherous acts of His people, mercifully calls them to repentance, and graciously warns them to be watchful of falling back into such sin again.

1. What does this word treacherous mean?
2. According to Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary treacherous means, "*Violating allegiance or faith pledged; faithless; traitorous to the state or sovereign; perfidious in private life; betraying a trust.*"
3. Needless to say, The Lord of Hosts does not take treachery well.

He is rebuking them for three treacherous dealings.

I. With their brothers v10

Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?

Malachi is pointing out to the people the hypocrisy of claiming one father (earthly Abraham and heavenly God) while dealing treacherously with each other!

1. He is hitting head on the disjointed nature of the tribes of Israel.
2. Why was there such disunity and dysfunction?
3. They has profaned the covenant of their fathers!

What was that covenant? Turn back to Exodus 24.

1. The 10 Commandments were the summary
 - a. The first four related to God
 - b. The last six related to their neighbor
2. Exodus 24:3-8

God had brought together these people to be His own.

1. God had covenanted with them
2. They had covenanted with God
3. They had covenanted with each other.

How much more us? The church?

1. The gospel
2. John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

II. Against the Sanctuary v11-12

v11 *Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD which He loves and has married the daughter of a foreign god.*

Idolatry was the big issue here, but it was linked to marrying pagan wives.

1. Nehemiah, Malachi's contemporary described the seriousness of the situation

2. Nehemiah 13:23-27

3. Deuteronomy 7:3-4 *Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you.*

5. How easy it is to get swept up by a pagan culture, and before you know it find out you are pagan...maybe gathering in the sanctuary on Sunday but as much an idolator as the next.

v12 *As for the man who does this, may the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob everyone who awakes and answers, or who presents an offering to the LORD of hosts.*

According to Wolf, "The English expression of being 'alive and kicking' may not be far from the thrust of this Hebrew idiom." Wolf, 89

III. Against their wives v13-16

13 *"This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.*

Why was God not blessing them?

1. They were weeping and groaning, but they were not really repenting.
2. The curse was already upon them! Malachi 2:2
3. They were not as concerned about God regarding the offering as they were with Him accepting it with favor.
4. They sensed God's favor was removed, and wept, but they did not truly repent

14 *Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. 15 But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit.*

1. They apparently were divorcing their wives in order to go and marry pagan wives.
2. This not only affected their marriage relationships, but their children.

15b *And what did that one do while he was seeking a godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth.*

1. You can't stay together for the sake of the kids...really? That isn't what God says.
2. Psalm 78:5-7 *For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children, 6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments*
3. Deuteronomy 6:1-9

16 *For I hate divorce," says the LORD, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the LORD of hosts.*

1. Mark 10:6-9 *But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. 7 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, 8 AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.*
2. God does not hate divorced people...he hates divorce!

Gibbon listed the following five primary reasons for the collapse of the Roman Empire:

1. The rapid increase of divorce, with the undermining of the sanctity of the home.
2. Higher and higher taxes.
3. The mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armies to fight external enemies, when the most deadly enemy, the decadence of the people, lay within.
5. The decay of religion

We need to check our culture!

1. Dating is divorce prep.
2. *Unless your child is wiser than Solomon, stronger than Samson, and more godly than David, they are susceptible to sexual sin, and these premature relationships serve as open invitations. Being involved in such exclusive relationships before you are ready to be married is like going shopping without any money; either you will leave frustrated, or you will take something that doesn't belong to you. Voddie page 21-22*
3. We need to check our culture...and push back when it pushes against the wisdom of God.
4. We need to take heed!

V16b *So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."*

1. So take heed to your spirit! v15b and v16b
2. Watch yourselves. You better be on guard.

Conclusion:

Christ is the loyal brother, the true God, and the faithful bridegroom.

Questions for Reflection

1. What is the main theme of the text?
2. Compare Malachi 2:10 with Jesus' words in John 13:31-35. How are they similar? How are they different?
3. What does divorce say about the gospel of Jesus? How does this passage relate to Ephesians 5:22-32?
4. How can we practically guard ourselves and our marriages from imploding from within?
5. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"