

God Deserves Our Best!

Malachi 1:6-14

6 "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts to you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'

7 "You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.'

8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts.

9 "But now entreat God's favor, That He may be gracious to us. While this is being done by your hands, Will He accept you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts.

10 "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," Says the Lord of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.

11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, my name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the Lord of hosts.

12 "But you profane it, in that you say, 'The table of the Lord is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.'

13 You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' And you sneer at it," Says the Lord of hosts. "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus, you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the Lord.

14 "But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the Lord of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations.

I. The INSTRUCTION of God was carried out while WHINING!

1:6 Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'

1:7 You offer defiled food on My altar, but say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the Lord is contemptible.'

14b "For I am a great King," says the Lord of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations."

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Malachi 1:11 - "For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts.

II. The WORSHIP of God was considered WEARISOME!

13a "You also say, 'Oh, what a weariness!' and you sneer at it," says the Lord of hosts.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Gal. 6:9 - Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

III. The OFFERINGS brought to God were their WORST!

8a "And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?"

13b "And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" says the Lord.

14a But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished...

10 "Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, so that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you," says the Lord of hosts, "Nor will I accept an offering from your hands."

Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

2 Samuel 24:24-25 - "...No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel."

Genesis 4:3-5 - "And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell."

A woman poured costly fragrant oil to anoint Jesus' head to express her love, her devotion, her worship. [Mark 14:3-9]

The widow came to the temple and gave of her poverty all that she had as an offering to God to express her love, her devotion, her worship. [Luke 21:1-4]

Luke 7:36-38 - "And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His [Jesus'] feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil."

Luke 7: 44-47 - "Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.'

Gal. 6:7 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

1. How authentic is my relationship with God?
2. How much of what I do for God has become empty ritual versus sincere, heartfelt worship?
3. Am I truly giving God the absolute best that I have to offer?
4. Have I truly sacrificed the totality of my own life on God's altar, committing to Him everything I have and everything I am, or am I giving Him my crumbs and leftovers, hoping that it pleases Him?
5. Am experiencing joy in devoted service to God, or am I finding it to be wearisome and a burden?

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