

MALACHI #2

"WHERE IS THE GOD OF JUSTICE?"

DECEMBER 8TH

7 PM

*Seven questions from those who are distant from God.

These kinds of questions often reveal our doubting, discouraged, and sinful hearts.

- In what way have You loved us? (*Malachi 1:2*)
- In what way have we despised Your name? (*Malachi 1:6*)
- In what way have we defiled You? (*Malachi 1:7*)
- **In what way have we wearied Him?** (*Malachi 2:17*)
- **In what way shall we return?** (*Malachi 3:7*)
- In what way have we robbed You? (*Malachi 3:8*)
- In what way have we spoken against You? (*Malachi 3:13*)

Malachi 2:10* 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? **11 Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god. **12** As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD remove him from the tents of Jacob—even though he brings an offering to the LORD Almighty.

13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. **14** You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

15 Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful to the wife of your youth.

16 "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. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

*Marriage to God is holy, sacred, and His institution.

- 1. *V:10-15 How far have we've fallen from God's plan? 2 Corinthians 6:11-18** The unequally yoked concept is one that God started and established with Israel and applies to believers.
- 2. V:15-16 God hates what divorce does.**
 - A. It breaks** the covenant with your spouse and with God who joined you together.
 - B. It harms** or damages children and society.
 - C. The most important aspect** is one who promises to protect is the violator.

**Malachi 2:17 You have wearied the LORD with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"*

*When people want justice from God, what are they saying?

1. **They cry for God's justice** only for others, while they cry for His mercy for themselves.
2. **V:17 Does God get weary?** The answer is yes, but not in the human terms we think. The Holy Spirit is connecting with us using human understanding. **Isaiah 40:28** He never grows tired or weary.
3. **Their Question;** "Where is the God of Justice?" God is offended when the people He revealed himself to believe he is unjust. **Malachi 2:17**

**Malachi 3:1 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.*

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, 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.

6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'

*The Lord's return is prophesied and He wants us to be ready!

1. **Malachi 3:1-5 Jesus first and second coming** are within these five verses as we see two time periods described.
2. **V:6 The call to return to God.** It's louder today than ever but, many do not have ears to hear.
 - A. **How are we to return?** The great falling away has us so deceived that many are not even asking this question.
 - B. **Returning to God,** God's Word will give us some specifics next week including the key areas that are keeping many from returning. Know this one thing about God, that he loves