

Stepping Up In Our Worship

(Malachi 1:6-14)

In the verses above we find God very angry with the people of Israel. He is furious that they were offering Him pathetic and irreverent worship. We would be wise to consider their mistakes!

Unlike Israel, we need to...

I. Always be mindful of God's Presence (Malachi 1:8-9).

- A. This was at the core of Israel's problems.
 - 1. They forgot that God cared about their worship.
 - 2. They forgot that their worship was unto Him and He saw everything they were doing.
- B. This same reality exists for us today!
 - 1. God is also emotionally invested in our worship (Psalm 51:18-19)
 - 2. God is also among us when we worship (Hebrews 2:11-12; Matthew 26:29).
 - 3. God is also watching us carefully each time we gather on the Lord's Day.

II. Honor God with our attitude (Malachi 1:6-7, 13-14).

- A. The priests especially had an attitude of apathy.
 - 1. They viewed worshipping God as a hassle (Malachi 1:13).
 - 2. They didn't have love, respect, and adoration towards God. They didn't have their hearts in their worship (John 4:24).
- B. How do we avoid their mistake?
 - 1. We need to remember who God is.
 - 2. We need to remember God's blessings.
 - 3. We need to be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

III. Give God our best (Malachi 1:10-11).

- A. This is another area where Israel failed.
 - 1. They offered to God blind, weak and sick animals.
 - 2. They gave God animals that they knew would have been an insult to their governor.
 - 3. God was angry and refused to accept their leftovers! He wanted them to understand that He was a great King who deserved to be honored.
- B. God deserves our best effort each time we assemble to worship.
 - 1. We must sing out and have thankfulness in our hearts (Colossians 3:16).
 - 2. We must remember the Lord's death while partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-25).
 - 3. We must give sacrificially and generously (2 Corinthians 9:6).
 - 4. We must listen attentively to the teaching and preaching of God's word.

Conclusion: God not only cares about worship unto Him, but He also cares about how we live.

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