

Malachi 1:6-14

3 Hazardous Conditions That Hinder Relationship With God



Context/Background

- Author: Prophet Malachi (Name means, “My Messenger”)
- Audience: Jewish people in and around Jerusalem
- Atmosphere: After being in exile in Babylon, people are back in their homeland; under Persian control
- Much apathy and indifference; people worshipped but their hearts were far from God
- Malachi was sent with a message of rededication

Lack of Reverence For God And His Position

- (v. 6, v. 9, v.11) Malachi given message to remind people of Who God really is
- Honor – “to exalt, lift up, value greatly”
- Reverence – “to respect, to be wary of offending”
- Children respect fathers and servants respect masters, but God’s people didn’t respect Him
- He “Lord of Hosts”, but people didn’t recognize this

- Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”
- Matt. 6:9, “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.”
- Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”



Indifferent Participation In Worship

- (vv. 7-8, v. 10, v. 12) Worshipping God is to be active, not passive
- People at this time worshipped with Sacrificial System; grains (first fruits) and animals (healthy, unblemished) brought and offered to God [Leviticus 1-7]
- People were offering to God in worship the defective and leftovers; the priests agreed with this and supported it
- God said this type of worship/offering is wicked

- Rev. 3:15-16, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”



Half-Hearted Service And Giving

- (vv. 13-14) Malachi addressed the peoples' attitudes about giving and serving
- People had become complacent, and bored with serving and giving; believed it all a nuisance
- Saw serving God as a weary burden that was a chore;
- “sneered” – to exhale a breath of disgust
- People saw no value in giving/serving, so gave the polluted and diseased

- Ps. 100:2, “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.”
- 2 Cors. 9:7, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

