

NEXT STEPS

God isn't impressed by the size of an offering, the visibility of an act, or the recognition it receives—He looks at the heart behind it. What matters most to Him is not how much we give, but what it costs us to give it. In God's economy, the value of an offering is measured by its worth to the one bringing it.

What is one specific area of your life—time, comfort, resources, reputation, or obedience—where giving God your best would actually cost you something this week?

PRAYER REQUESTS

Who or what can you be praying for this week?

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the book of malachi

FINAL WORDS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT



TALK IT OVER

Talk It Over Questions

For the week of February 22, 2026

God Doesn't Want Your Leftovers

Malachi 1:6-14

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

MY STORY

In Malachi's day, God's people were still showing up to worship, still bringing sacrifices, and still going through all the outward motions of faith. But God exposed the truth that their worship had become empty routine instead of heartfelt reverence. He made it clear that the real problem wasn't their attendance—it was their attitude toward Him.

Where do you see the difference between *going through the motions* spiritually and genuinely honoring God from the heart in your own life?

God told the priests that even though they were offering sacrifices, they were actually dishonoring Him because they treated worship as a burden instead of a privilege. Their problem wasn't ignorance—they knew what God required but chose convenience over devotion. That warning reminds us that it's possible to stay active in ministry while our hearts slowly drift from awe and reverence.

What are some subtle signs that worship or service is becoming routine rather than a genuine response to God's greatness?

DIGGING DEEPER

Before we can understand what's wrong with the worship in Malachi 1:6–14, we have to try and understand who it is they were bringing their offerings to. God reminds them that He is not just a distant deity but their Father and Master—the LORD of Hosts—worthy of honor, reverence, and wholehearted devotion. When we truly recognize who we are dealing with in worship, it changes not only what we bring, but how and why we bring it. Read the following passage and answer the question below.

Malachi 1:6-14

In Malachi 1:6–14, what does God reveal about His character and authority, and how should that shape the way His people approach worship?

God's rebuke in Malachi 1 shows that the issue wasn't just bad sacrifices—it was a small view of God. When His people lost sight of His greatness, they started treating worship casually and offering Him what cost them nothing. A right understanding of God's greatness always leads to a right response of giving Him our very best.

According to Malachi 1:6–14, how does a diminished view of God lead to careless worship, and what would it look like practically to honor His greatness with our best today?

In the passage, God exposes that their worship had become wearisome—not because worship itself is burdensome, but because their hearts had drifted from Him. Dr. Ray Pritchard summarizes this kind of spiritual decline with three symptoms: inadequate preparation, improper motivation, and half-hearted participation. Those same warning signs can quietly surface in our lives whenever we lose sight of God's worth and begin treating worship as routine instead of relationship.

Which of these three symptoms of wearisome worship do you see most often in your own life or in the church today, and what would genuine renewal look like according to Malachi 1:6–14?