

## NEXT STEPS

Understanding our identity changes everything. We are not ordinary people trying to live better lives—we are chosen people, a royal priesthood, set apart by God to reflect His holiness and declare His greatness. When that truth settles into our hearts, reverence replaces routine, commitment replaces convenience, and our lives begin to display the reality that we belong to Him.

**What is one specific area of your life where you need to start living more intentionally this week as someone who truly belongs to God and represents Him to others?**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Who or what can you be praying for this week?**

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# the book of malachi

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FINAL WORDS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT



# Talk It Over Questions

For the week of March 1, 2026

Being Priestly People

*Malachi 2:1-9*

## 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, the priests were supposed to represent God to the people and lead them in true worship. Instead, they dishonored Him through careless attitudes, compromised obedience, and spiritual indifference. Their problem wasn't lack of knowledge—it was lack of reverence. God made it clear that when His people lose their awe of Him, their lives begin to drift from Him.

**Where do you see the connection between a person's view of God and the way they live or worship in your own life?**

The priests thought their choices didn't really matter, but God warned them that their attitudes toward Him would affect future generations. Their present faithfulness—or unfaithfulness—would shape the spiritual legacy they left behind. That reminder shows us that our walk with God is never just personal; it always influences others.

**What kind of spiritual legacy are you currently building through your attitudes, priorities, and example?**

## DIGGING DEEPER

Before confronting the priests' failures, God reminded them of their calling. They were chosen to be messengers of the Lord, preserving truth and helping people walk in obedience. Their role was sacred, and it required reverence, faithfulness, and integrity. When they turned from God's ways, they didn't just harm themselves—they caused others to stumble as well.

**Read Malachi 2:1–9**

**According to this passage, what responsibilities did God give the priests, and how does that help us understand our calling today as believers who are described as a “royal priesthood”?**

God rebuked the priests because they had turned from His way and caused many to stumble. Their spiritual drift didn't stay private—it became destructive to others. When leaders or believers grow cold toward God, their influence can quietly lead others away from truth instead of toward it.

**What are some modern-day ways believers can unintentionally cause others to stumble in their faith?**

Malachi shows that spiritual decline usually starts with a small shift—a loss of awe for God's holiness. When reverence fades, obedience weakens. When obedience weakens, compromise grows. But when people return to honoring God's name, He restores them and renews their usefulness.

**What practical habits or heart attitudes help cultivate a deeper reverence for God in daily life?**

God calls His priestly people to respond to Him with genuine reverence and obedience, not just words of belief but lives marked by submission and awe of His holiness. When we truly revere God as God, we become intentional about walking closely with Him in daily fellowship, allowing our love for Him to shape our priorities, choices, and character. As we walk with Him faithfully, our lives begin to represent Him well before others, preserving truth and pointing people toward Him through both our words and our example.

**Read 1 Peter 2:9–10.**

**How does this passage deepen your understanding of your identity as one of God's priestly people?**