

## NEXT STEPS

Malachi ends with this command: “So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.”

Faithfulness does not happen accidentally—it must be cultivated and protected.

Six practical ways to guard covenant faithfulness include:

- Take responsibility to grow spiritually.
- Stay committed.
- Set up hedges of protection.
- Commit to communicate.
- Think the best of your spouse.
- Be a servant.

Faithfulness grows where it is intentionally nurtured and carefully guarded.

**What is one relationship (with God, family, spouse, or others) where you need to recommit to faithfulness this week?**

## 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**

# Talk It Over Questions

For the week of March 8, 2026

Being Priestly People

*Malachi 2:10-16*

## 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

Malachi confronted God's people for breaking faith in three critical relationships: with one another, with God, and within their marriages. Their problem wasn't ignorance—it was indifference. They blamed God for their struggles while ignoring their own unfaithfulness. The bottom line of the message was clear: for a relationship to be meaningful to us and pleasing to God, it must be characterized by faithfulness.

**Where have you seen how small compromises in faithfulness can slowly damage a relationship?**

Malachi begins by reminding the people that they have “one Father” and belong to a covenant family. Their disunity and dishonesty with one another profaned something sacred. Because we share one Heavenly Father, our treatment of one another matters deeply to God.

**How does remembering that other believers share the same Father change the way you think about unity, forgiveness, or conflict?**

## DIGGING DEEPER

Malachi identifies three ways God's people broke faith:

### 1. They broke faith with each other (v.10)

They “dealt treacherously” and profaned the covenant. Their actions dishonored what God had established as sacred.

Read Malachi 2:10.

**What does it mean to “profane” something God calls sacred? Where might believers today be tempted to treat sacred relationships casually?**

### 2. They broke faith with God (v.11)

They traded living devotion for empty religiosity. Instead of guarding their distinct identity, they allowed spiritual compromise to enter their homes and lives.

Read Malachi 2:11 and 2 Corinthians 6:14.

**Why is spiritual compromise so dangerous, even if it seems subtle or culturally acceptable? In what ways can believers drift from devotion into religious routine?**

### 3. They broke faith with their spouse (v.12–16)

God declared Himself a witness to their marriage covenant. He was not impressed with emotional displays that lacked true repentance. He hates divorce because of the devastation it causes—but He does not hate divorced people.

Read Malachi 2:14–16.

**What does this passage teach about how seriously God takes covenant promises? How does guarding your spirit relate to guarding your marriage and other close relationships?**