

Tuesday, February 28

⁵My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. ⁶True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips.

1. Every covenant has two sides: God provides certain things for us as we provide certain things for him.
 - a. What things did God provide to Levi in this covenant?
 - i. In what way do you think God gave both life and peace to Levi?
 - ii. Do you believe this life and peace was given to Levi for Levi, or was it given to Levi to give to others?
 - iii. In what do you think this life and peace consisted?
 - b. What did Levi provide for God in this covenant?
 - i. What connection was there between this fear and awe of God and the true instruction that was found in his mouth?
 - ii. What connection do you think there might be between the true instruction that was in Levi's mouth and the life and peace that he could bring to the people from God?
 - c. What would be required, then, in order for the words of Levi to continue to bring life and peace to the people?
 - i. In what way is this still true today?

KTFK: the people / peace. / instruction does / will know / Where true / not cease, / life and

Song: "Wonderful Words of Life"

Prayer: "Lord, we live in a day where true instruction is often hard to find. Purify your servants, Lord, that they might only teach what is true and right. Increase their fear and awe of you that no wrong may be found on their lips. Amen."

Wednesday, March 1

He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. ⁷For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

1. In what way do you think a priest is supposed to guard knowledge?
 - a. Where does this knowledge come from?
 - b. Who or what is this knowledge being guarded from?
 - c. What does it say that the priest is supposed to guard knowledge with?
 - d. What kind of work does this indicate that priests will always somehow be engaged in?
2. Why does Malachi say that people should seek instruction from the mouth of the priest?
 - a. What does it mean that he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts?

b. What then happens in situations where the words of the priests are not true?

3. How would/could the work of the priests turn people from iniquity?
 - a. What other effect might those words have?

KTFK: guards the / the lies / the peoples' / can win. / that an / A godly / which praise / sin, and / true instruction / erring heart / priest refutes

Song: "I Love to Tell the Story"

Prayer: "Lord, we are surrounded by lies. They come at us from every direction and in every area of life. We are in desperate need for the lies to be refuted and for true knowledge to be both guarded and proclaimed. Raise up those to whom you have given understanding of the truth that they might engage the battle and not remain on the sidelines as false teachings lead more and more people into sin. Amen."

Thursday, March 2

⁸But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction."

1. What does it mean to show partiality in instruction?
 - a. Who might a priest be partial toward?
 - b. Who might a priest be partial against?
2. Why would a priest show partiality in his instruction? What's in it for him?
3. To what degree do you believe that those who speak for God in our day show partiality in their instruction?
4. How would this kind of weakness cause these priests to become despised and abased before all the people?
5. How does this then serve to weaken the power of the truth as it is spoken?
6. What effect does this kind of weak and partial message have on the children who grow up within that culture?
7. In what way can that drift be countered?

KTFK: hearts of / truth of / themselves to / God to / joke to / to brothers. / others, show / be a / change the / win the / Those who / sisters and

Song: "Speak, O Lord"

Prayer: "Lord, it is not a mystery why it is that those who speak for you in our day are respected very little, for it seems that they say whatever it is that draws the largest crowd. But, Lord, give us men who will speak the truth despite the size of the crowd, that your truth might draw to you all those whom you have chosen and refine us in the brilliant light of your holy word. Amen."

Friday, March 3

⁸But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, ⁹and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

1. While this entire section has been mainly focused on the failures of the priests, why do you think it is that the priests begin to show partiality in their instruction?
 - a. Is this something the priests dream up themselves or is it something they are pressured to do?
 - b. Who is it that pressures them?
2. In what kinds of situations do you think priests (or those who speak for God) are pressured to depart from the truth of God by the people who come to them?
 - a. How might this happen in areas of marriage and divorce?
 - b. How might this happen in areas of human sexuality?
 - c. How might this happen in areas of justice?
 - d. How might this happen in areas of mercy and the need for forgiveness?
3. Have you ever wanted a spokesman for God to depart from holding to what the word of God says?
 - a. Why?
4. In what way might it be true that God’s people get the kinds of teachers they want?
 - a. How can God’s people work to encourage the teachers to guard true instruction?
5. How would this example affect the formation of their children?

KTFK: then we / If we / all obstruction. / must live / want the / truth removing / within that / true instruction, / guard the / teachers to

Song: “Trust and Obey”

Prayer: “Lord, help each and every one of us to realize that we all play a role in the ability of the teachers of our day to guard true instruction. Help us to encourage them in every way and to never be the source of pressure for them to depart from even the smallest aspect of your truth. Help us to show our children that we do not see the truth as something for us to shape according to our wishes, but rather as something to help us live according to yours. To you be the glory! Amen.”

Saturday, March 4

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Feb 27 - Those who / speak for / God no / power can / they claim, / except as / much as / what they / say brings / honor to / his name.
Feb 28 - Where true / instruction does / not cease, / the people / will know / life and / peace.
Mar 1 - A godly / priest refuses / the lies / which praise / the peoples' / sin, and / guards the / true instruction / that an / erring heart / can win.
Mar 2 - Those who / change the / truth of / God to / win the / hearts of / others, show / themselves to / be a / joke to / sisters and / to brothers.
Mar 3 - If we / want the / teachers to / guard the / true instruction, / then we / must live / within that / truth removing / all obstruction.

Family Worship 2023 February 27 - March 4 Malachi 2:1-9

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, February 27

“And now, O priests, this command is for you. ²If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. ³Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. ⁴So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts.

1. What does verse 2 tell us about the power of priests to bless people?
 - a. What caution should this then give to people who serve in that capacity?
2. What general accusation is God making about the priests of that day?
3. In what kinds of ways do you think a priest might fail in his work and life to give honor to the name of the LORD?
4. What threat does God make to them in verse 3?
 - a. Does it surprise you that God should threaten such a thing?
 - b. What do you think God is trying to tell them by such a threat?
5. Even though we don’t yet hear much by verse 4 about this “covenant with Levi,” what does its mention already tell us about the role of being a priest in that day?
 - a. What does the term covenant imply?
 - b. How does it underscore that the priests had a responsibility which God expected them to fulfill?
6. While we do not have priests today in the same way as Old Testament Israel, do we have those who serve similar roles?
 - a. Do you think there is any way in which this “covenant with Levi” might still be important?

KTFK: say brings / what they / they claim, / much as / Those who / honor to / speak for / God no / except as / his name. / power can

Song: “Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Way of Truth” (Blue Psalter Hymnal, #240)

Prayer: “Lord Jehovah, I pray for the priests of our own day – those who minister in the sanctuary and speak for you. Lord, may your Spirit draw them to honor you in all things: in everything they say and teach, and in all the ways that they live. May all these things bring honor to your name, that your people might be blessed through them. Amen.”