

Answers to Sermon Notes

“Turning Hearts, Part II”

“Responding to the Love of God...With Honorable Offerings”

Malachi 1:1-14

2/26/23

- 1) As you can probably tell from the **title**, there will be two main points to unpack here in our passage:
 - a) That the activities related to the work of turning hearts are a **response** to the **love** of God.
 - b) That the centerpiece of that response must be **honorable** offerings.
- 2) But, before we look more **closely** at those two points, let's **recap** a bit of what we did last week.
 - a) We began our study of the Book of Malachi by focusing on the last two verses.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

- b) And drawing the following **conclusions**:
 - i) The, “Elijah,” referenced here was, in fact, **John** the **Baptist**.
 - ii) The work of John the Baptist was to prepare the way for the Lord by **reissuing** the call of the Law and the Prophets.
 - (1) **Repentance** of sin and a **full-hearted** return to the LORD.
 - iii) This work of John was not simply intended to prepare us for the Lord's **first** coming, but to prepare us for his **second** coming, the Day of the Lord.
 - (1) This work of John **continues today**.
 - iv) Though the good news of the kingdom has come in Christ, rather than **replacing** the voice of the law and prophets, it works **together** with it. (Mt. 5:17-20, Lk. 16:16)
 - (1) To call us to the **cross** in repentance.
 - (2) And to continue the work of **refining** us in the image of the Holy One.
 - (a) A brief **return** to our explanation of the **gospel** helps to make this clear.
 - (i) If the good news was to replace the voice of John, the gospel would **end** with just **two** parts.
 - (ii) Part three refers to the **ongoing** work of the voice of John: the Law and Prophets.
 - (b) It is this that is expressed in our **church logo**.
 - v) Turning the hearts of fathers to their children occurs when the **weight** of the voice of Elijah (John/the Law and Prophets) causes us true concern over the **eternal** future of our children.
 - (1) And leads us to seek to lead them in the only way we have: by our own **example**.
 - (a) So, turning our hearts to our **children** turns our hearts to the **Lord**.
 - (2) As our children see our **earnestness** in this they are moved to **follow**.

- 3) Today, then, we see first that the actions of turning our hearts to the Lord are a response to his **love**. (vs. 2-5)
- a) The **entirety** of the Law and Prophets has always been predicated on the love of God for **his** people. (Ex. 20:1-2)
 - i) And it leads the understanding to ponder, “**Where** would I be **without** the Lord?”
 - ii) Even as here with Jacob and Esau, it is due to the **electing** love of God alone that we are **beloved children** instead of wicked rebels. (Eph. 1:3-10, Romans 9:10-13)
 - (1) As we have responded in **faith** to the **gospel**. (Eph. 1:11-14, 2:8-9)
 - b) If then we have the **eyes** to see, this sight, in and of itself, **testifies** to his love toward us.
 - i) Eyes to see that **sin** is not **safe**.
 - ii) Eyes to see that **all** is not **lost**.
 - c) As we see clearly the immensity of this undeserved love, it makes part three a **no-brainer**.
 - i) **Willing** hearts, **eager** to count the cost: repentance and faith.
 - d) This is the reason why we must **regularly** and seriously return to and truly **hear** the voice of John.
 - i) Those fathers, then, who truly want to **lead** their children to **life** should spend significant time reading and reflecting on the **Law** and **Prophets**.
 - ii) The **springs** of a trampoline will only lift you up into the air when your **weight** has stretched them down toward the ground.
- 4) Second, we see that our response to this love must take the form of **honorable** offerings. (vs. 6-14)
- i) Offerings that are:
 - (1) **Free**
 - (a) The offerings listed here are **freewill** offerings – expressions of love.
 - (2) **Pleasing**
 - (a) Given as prescribed by the **word** of **God**.
 - (b) Of the finest **quality**.
 - (3) **Reverent**
 - (a) Done with holy **fear** and **awe**.
 - (b) Testifying that he is indeed a **Great King** whose name will be **feared** among the nations.
 - ii) **Paul** summarizes this way of living for us in **Romans** 12:1-2.
- 5) As fathers and mothers live their lives in **response** to the love of God and with **living** sacrifices of this type, their lives become the greatest testimony to the **gospel** that their children and those around them will ever see.