

Tuesday, March 7

May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

1. Whom does Malachi suggest the Lord would cut off from the tents of Jacob because of this?
 - a. Why do you think he mentions the descendants of the man who does this rather than simply the man himself?
 - b. How does this connect to the overall theme of this series, “Turning Hearts”?
2. Why do you think the suggested response to this from God is so extreme?
 - a. What earlier development does this mirror? (see Genesis 6:1-7)
 - b. How does this help explain God’s intended actions? What is he trying to avoid?
3. Why do you think this punishment is in response to such a person trying to bring an offering to the LORD of hosts?
 - a. What would this person be showing God?
4. Is God still jealous for his people today?
 - a. Is there any way in which we fall into similar types of sin today?
 - i. Do you think there are similar consequences for our children?

KTFK: go our / our little / we encourage / When we / word and / ones to / disregard his / his affection. / play with / own direction,

Song: “My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone”

Prayer: “Lord God, help us to never engage in conscious disregard for your word, that our children should take you lightly. May our every decision be made as an expression of our true worship of you, that they may follow in those footsteps, and always find themselves in your grace and truth. Amen.”

Wednesday, March 8

¹³ *And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴ But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.*

1. This is now the third time a covenant has been mentioned in this chapter. Which covenant is mentioned here?
2. Who has been faithless in this covenant and how?
3. What has been the result of this faithlessness?
4. How would someone conclude that the Lord is not looking with favor on their offerings?
5. Why doesn’t this individual understand why the Lord is not looking with favor on his offering?

6. Why do you think this person would expect God to still regard his offering even when he has been faithless to his wife?
7. To what degree do Christians today assume that God will and should bless them even when they are consciously doing things contrary to his word and will?
8. What is the state of the covenant of marriage today?

KTFK: man and / for life. / live their / God / wife, to / covenant / intends for

Song: “O Perfect Love”

Prayer: “Lord God, may we not be faithless in our marriage covenants, not in big ways or in small ones. May we be as concerned about the health and vitality of that covenant as you are, that nothing might come between us and you – and nothing would cause you to reject our offerings. Amen.”

Thursday, March 9

¹⁵ *Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.*

1. What was the purpose of God making the man and woman one in marriage?
2. Why is the enduring nature of the union of marriage important to the raising of godly offspring?
3. What is it about marriage that helps to create godly offspring?
4. How important is it for people entering marriage to understand this purpose?
5. What purpose for marriage do those hold who are faithless to that covenant?
6. How does this serve to lead their children away from God?
7. If the definition of marriage is changed, do you think it will change the degree to which godly offspring will be created through it?
 - a. Might this be the reason it is being redefined?

KTFK: than pleasure; / intends to / for more / children for / for through / is made / it God / raise up / of marriage / his treasure. / The covenant

Song: “Our Children, Lord, in Faith and Prayer”

Prayer: “Lord, all around us we are bombarded with messages that view marriage and its purpose much differently than you do. Help us to cherish marriage, but to cherish it for the reasons that you have ordained. May we take our marriage vows seriously, that the union we share may indeed lead to many godly offspring. We praise you for the many babies and young children who have been born to our covenant community in recent months and years. May they all grow to be the godly offspring you desire. Amen.”

Friday, March 10

¹⁶ “For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”

1. What alternative does God give here to a man divorcing his wife in verse 16?
2. What does this tell us about what God’s desires for marriage are?
 - a. Is it simply “not getting divorced” that God is concerned about?
3. What kind of violence do you think God is referring to by the act of divorce?
4. In what way can we guard ourselves in our spirit?
5. How can others help us in this guarding activity?
6. What kinds of threats are a particular danger today in leading us to become faithless in our marriages?

KTFK: we may / but let / little ones / not only / Let us / the Lord / us truly / not divorce / above. / to love / love, that / lead our

Song: “I Need Thee Every Hour”

Prayer: “Lord, we daily live with countless threats to our keeping faith in our marriages. Help us to guard our spirits in this struggle, and not to aim simply for not getting divorced, but for loving and respecting each other as you, O God, have instructed us. Amen.”

Saturday, March 11

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

Mar 6 - When instruction / goes astray / and changes / with the / tide, even / in His / peoples’ lives / wicked things / abide.
Mar 7 - When we / disregard his / word and / go our / own direction, / we encourage / our little / ones to / play with / his affection.
Mar 8 - God / intends for / man and / wife, to / live their / covenant / for life.
Mar 9 - The covenant / of marriage / is made / for more / than pleasure; / for through / it God / intends to / raise up / children for / his treasure.
Mar 10 - Let us / not only / not divorce / but let / us truly / love, that / we may / lead our / little ones / to love / the Lord / above.

Family Worship 2023 March 6 - 11 Malachi 2:10-16

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

Monday, March 6

¹⁰ Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹ Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

1. What does it mean here to be “faithless”?
 - a. How does this connect to the definition of “choosing faith” we used in our recent James study?
 - b. How is faithlessness shown?
 - c. In what way is this being faithless “to one another”?
2. This is the second time in this chapter that a covenant has been referred to.
 - a. What covenant was referred to in the last section? (vs. 1-9)
 - b. What covenant is referred to here in verse 10?
 - i. What is “the covenant of our fathers”?
 - c. How are those two covenants connected?
 - d. Which aspect of the covenant is being profaned in the actions described in verse 11?
3. Who does Malachi mean to refer to in verse 10 when he speaks of “we...all” and “us”?
 - a. Why is this important not to misunderstand?
4. How might the partiality that the priests were showing in their instruction have led to this situation?

KTFK: and changes / goes astray / tide, even / peoples’ lives / with the / in His / abide. / wicked things / When instruction

Song: “Jesus, with Your Church Abide”

Prayer: “LORD, we see so clearly here the way in which the partiality of the teaching of the priests in the previous section has led to the sin of marrying the daughters of foreign gods here. But in fact, it was probably in part the deep desire that your people had to do this which led to the priests corrupting their teaching in the first place. For we see the same dynamic playing out in our own day: the people deeply desire something, so the teachers corrupt their teaching to accommodate them. What weakness! What shameful conduct on the part of all! Save us, O Lord, from conduct like this. Help us, one and all, to seek to walk in true righteousness and holiness that we might help others to be faithful rather than faithless. Amen.”