



## Going Deeper into

### Malachi 1:6-14 – “Honoring God”

1. **God’s complaint against the Israelites concerning their worship was that, by bringing defiled animals as sacrifices, they were treating Him dishonorably.**

The Israelites’ attitude toward their sacrifices and offerings reflected their attitude toward God. What areas of our worship can similarly reflect our attitude toward God, whether good or bad?

Read Psalm 63:1-2. As you come to worship God, how is your demeanor like the psalmists? How is it, at times, like the attitude of the people in Malachi 1:6-14?

The sermon highlighted that the phrase “show favor” was a picture of a king lifting up a subject’s face so that they could look upon the king. What things did you see about God in your last worship experience? These may be aspects touched upon through a song, scripture reading, or your meditations of them.

***Pray: Dear Lord, as I come to worship you, help me to bring a pure heart that desires to know you and to be present with you. Amen.***

2. **God’s response to the people’s worship in this passage reveals that God takes our worship personally.**

What things do you take personally? What things would you defend if someone were to start threatening them?

What and when you are willing to defend shows what is important to you. Based on God’s reaction to the people’s worship and the things he defends, what do you believe is important to God?

Reflecting on the fact that God takes our worship personally, how will you approach worshiping him, privately and corporately, in the future?

***Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times when I have treated worshiping you as a chore and when I have treated worshiping you cheaply. Thank you for the joy of being your child, of being able to come before you and to celebrate you. Help me to give you honor the next time I gather with my church to worship you. Amen.***