



Going Deeper into

Malachi 2:1-9 – “Prodigal Priests”

1. **This sermon explains that Malachi 2:1-9 can apply to more than modern-day ministers, since the New Testament reveals that all believers act as priests in the world (1 Peter 2:29, Rev. 1:5-6).**

The priests of Israel represented God to the people and interceded with God on their behalf. How are New Testament believers like the priests of Israel?

What are some ways that the current church, as a whole, does not represent God well before the world?

Romans 12:1 says to present our bodies as living sacrifices as an act of spiritual service to God. What does this mean to you in light of being part of “a royal priesthood?”

Pray: Dear God, I present myself to you as a living sacrifice, desiring to represent Jesus to the world. I pray that I will honor You with how I live my life. Amen.

2. **While Malachi 2:2-3 describe the curse that God would send if the priests did not listen to and obey Him, the other verses focus on His desire that they would obey Him and experience His blessings like the priests of old.**

God encouraged the priests to take His instruction to heart. What has God been saying to you that you need to “take to heart” today?

God used His “covenant with Levi” as an example for the current priests. Describe a person’s life of faith that serves as an example for how you would like to live? If possible, take time this week to tell them how they are an example to you.

During the sermon, David said, “If the leaders are not doing what is right by God, then how can the people who are following them do what is right?” How are you a leader? Who watches what you do?

Pray: Dear Lord, help me to take my life of faith to heart, and to demonstrate the truth of what I believe. Thank you for those who teach me how to live, and for those who look to me as a guide in their walk as well. Amen.

3. God says that “true instruction” was given by his original priests, but the priests in Malachi’s day were applying the law with partiality and causing people to stumble by their teachings.

What are some teachings that various Christians/preachers are emphasizing that are not in keeping with God’s ways? How do these teachings err from God’s Word?

What teachings were given to you as part of the Christian message that you have rejected or moved away from because you realized they are not consistent with God’s Word?

We often attach our personal culture to the gospel, and try to share our culture when we share Jesus with others. What consequences do you see in this type of approach?

There are, no doubt, people in your life who you perceive are not following Jesus. List their names below and begin requesting for God to give you the opportunity to share your faith in Jesus with them.

Pray: Heavenly Father, there is more to me than my faith in Jesus: I have social, political, and cultural views that inform who I am as well. Help me to communicate the grace of Jesus Christ without attaching it to my other views or attacking other people for views that differ from mine. Amen.