The Lord's Indictment Against His People: Dishonouring God's Name
Malachi 01:06 – 02:09

1. *The Lord's complaint*
   a. He was their Father, yet they did not honour Him
   b. He was their Master, yet they did not respect Him
   c. He accused the priests of showing contempt for Him
2. *The people's question: How...?*
3. *The Lord's proof*
   a. The people defiled the *Lord's* altar by offering imperfect sacrifices
   - They brought blind, crippled, and diseased animals: Was a direct violation of God's commandments, Lev 22:17-33; Deut 15:19-23
   - They brought gifts to God that would even be displeasing, unacceptable to the governor
   - They expected God to hear their cry for mercy when they presented these imperfect offerings

   b. The people ignored God's holy nature: He would long for the temple doors to be shut
   - Because the people's worship was displeasing
   - Because the people's offerings were unacceptable

6 "A son honours his father,
and a slave his master.
If I am a father, where is the honour due me?
If I am a master, where is the respect due me?"
says the Lord Almighty.
"It is you priests who show contempt
for my name. "But you ask,
'How have we shown contempt
for your name?'

7 "By offering defiled food on my altar.
"But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?'
"By saying that the Lord's table
is contemptible.

8 When you offer blind animals for sacrifice,
is that not wrong?
When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals,
is that not wrong?
Try offering them to your governor!
Would he be pleased with you?
Would he accept you?"
says the Lord Almighty.

9 "Now plead with God to be gracious to us.
With such offerings from your hands,
will he accept you?"—
says the Lord Almighty.

10 "Oh, that one of you would shut
the temple doors,
so that you would not light
useless fires on my altar!
I am not pleased with you,"
says the Lord Almighty,
"and I will accept no offering from your hands.

c. The people ignored the prophecies dealing with God's Name: That His Name would be honoured among all nations — A picture of the Messiah's coming kingdom

- He will be honoured all day long
- He will be honoured all over the world

11 My name will be great among the nations,
from where the sun rises to where it sets.
In every place incense and pure offerings
will be brought to me,
because my name will be great
among the nations,"
says the LORD Almighty.

d. The people dishonoured the LORD by their attitude

- They carelessly defiled the *LORD's* table

12 "But you profane it by saying,
'The Lord's table is defiled,'
and, 'Its food is contemptible.'

- They grumbled and stuck up their noses at God's commandments: Felt that God's demand for the first and best offering was an unnecessary burden on the people

13 And you say, 'What a burden!'
and you sniff at it contemptuously,"
says the LORD Almighty.
"When you bring injured, lame or diseased
animals and offer them as sacrifices,
should I accept them from your hands?"
says the LORD.

e. The people cheated the Lord: They made vows to obey God in their offerings but failed to keep them

- The cheaters were cursed
- The Lord was to be feared

14 "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable
male in his flock and vows to give it,
but then sacrifices a blemished animal
to the Lord. For I am a great king," says
the LORD Almighty, "and my name
is to be feared among the nations."

CHAPTER 2

4. *The LORD's warning to the priests*

1 "And now, you priests, this warning is for you.

a. The priests had not heard God nor set their hearts on honouring His name: Three consequences

- They would be cursed

2 If you do not listen,
and if you do not resolve to honour my name,"
says the LORD Almighty,
"I will send a curse on you,
and I will curse your blessings.
Yes, I have already cursed them,
because you have not resolved to honour me.

• They would bring a rebuke down on their descendants • They would be counted unclean and disposed of — just like dung	3 "Because of you I will rebuke your descendants ; I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it.
b. The priests had not lived up to God's standard established with Levi, Exo 29:l-46: Num 3:45-48; 18:21-24; 25:1-13 • The purpose of the covenant was to bring life, peace, and the fear or reverence of God • The priest Levi feared God	4 And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue," says the LORD Almighty. 5 "My covenant was with him, a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.
• The priest Levi also taught the truth — God's law and His Holy Word — and walked with God, turning many away from sin • The standard for all priests is to be a true messenger of the LORD: To guard knowledge (God's Word) and to be sought after by people	6 True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. 7 "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth.
3) The priests had turned from the way of the LORD and caused many to stumble • Their basic sin: Had violated God's covenant with Levi (obedience) • Their judgment: To be despised and humiliated before the people d. The priests had shown partiality in interpreting matters of the law	8 But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the LORD Almighty. 9 "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."