

DAY 6

1. Reflect again on the “priesthood of believers,” and your role within the church. Do you see yourself in this way? What steps can you take to more faithfully execute your priestly duties?
2. God warns about partiality in the worship of His name because Israelites were picking and choosing which laws to teach and apply in their own lives. How do we show partiality in our own lives to the commands of God? What has God commanded you to do or be that you are not faithfully living out? Write down how you can better live faithfully and share it with your group.

LIVE IT

The proper response to God’s faithfulness is action. It is not enough to merely think or ponder His truth. We must live it out in our own lives. God, through Malachi, warns His people of the dangers of a stagnant and hard-hearted faith. The major way that God allows our faith to grow and remain fresh is through living out what He says.

DO (ACTION STEP)

Think of an area of your life where you are showing partiality to God’s Word. You know what it says, but you don’t want to obey. Identify that area and share it with someone close to you so that they may help you experience the fullness of life that comes with obedience to God’s Word.

SHARE

Enjoy the union that you have with other believers because you both have one Father. Share with someone how they have been faithful to you.

MEMORIZE

“For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.”

- Malachi 2:7

PRAY

Pray that God would empower and equip you to live a life worthy of His name. Pray that He would be your source of joy as you obey His will for your life.

ACT

Thank someone who actively listens when you speak.

TALK

Use the themes and messages from this week to influence others for Christ! Work these things into conversation with friends, kids, coworkers or whoever will hear.

MALACHI

LIVE A LIFE THAT
HONORS GOD

MALACHI 2
WEEK 2



GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

In chapter two, Malachi shifts from the general to the specific. Addressing the priests of the nation, God pronounces judgement that extends to all His people. He deals severely with partiality and dishonor.

The two major examples that God uses to show Israel their faithlessness in this chapter are divorce and blasphemy. By doing these things, Israel neglects their covenant promises to each other and God. They have, “wearied the Lord with [their] words” (v.17).

God’s people, namely the Jewish priests, are called to live lives that honor God. The priests of Malachi’s day were not living righteously and further hardened the hearts of the people to God’s law. God says that His covenant with Israel through the priests was one of “life and peace” (v. 5). The failure of the priests to revere the Lord in their actions caused many to stumble, quickening God’s severe response.

God loves being worshipped for His goodness and faithfulness, but in their actions, Israel failed to recognize the goodness and faithfulness of God.

A CLOSER LOOK - PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

All those who follow Jesus enter what theologians call the “priesthood of believers.” The apostle Peter addressing Christians says, “you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a *holy priesthood*, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:4)

In Jewish times, the priests were a select few that had direct access to God. Through requirements and commands ordained by God, they could enter His presence and impact the people through their interaction with God. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we now enjoy direct access to God, as the priests of Israel enjoyed. Unlike the priests of Israel in Malachi’s day, this privilege pushes us to lives that honor God and place him first.

DAY 1

1. Read chapter one.
2. Reflect on your Week One discussion. Mal. 1:14 warns God’s people to give Him their best. Which areas of your life are you not handing over to God? Pray that God would continue to reveal those areas to you and repent (pray for forgiveness and change your actions).
3. Look up the word “fear” in these passages (Psalms 19:9, Proverbs 1:7, Ecclesiastes 12:13). What does it look like to “fear” the name of the Lord? How do you demonstrate fear of the Lord in your daily living?

For the remaining days, read chapter two daily.

DAY 2

1. Read 1 Pet. 2:1-10. Malachi 2:1-9 contains warnings to the priests of Israel. Does the “priesthood of believers” concept explained in 1 Peter change your reading of Mal. 2:1-9? How? In what ways is God calling you to be an example of holiness?
2. In verses 13-14, Malachi warns of the consequences of faithlessness. Does God punish saved people for their sin? Think about the difference between punishment and discipline.

Praying God’s Word: 2 Timothy 2:13 says that, “If we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.” Trust that if you have confessed Jesus as Lord, God will never deny you, even in the face of great faithlessness. Pray that God would calm your spirit during your faithlessness and that He would create in you a desire to understand His truth and apply it.

DAY 3

1. In verse 10, Malachi cites the unity of Israel under God as a reason to remain faithful to the community of believers. How specifically does thinking about God as our Father help shape our identity as believers? Think about both as a local church and a global church.
2. Reflect on the truth that God “loves” His sanctuary (v.11). Do you spend much time thinking about the affection of God when His church gathers to worship? How can you remind yourself of that throughout the coming weeks?

DAY 4

1. God makes an emphasis of His hatred for divorce, especially in the case of unfaithfulness. Why does this sin anger the heart of God in a unique way? (Think about the covenant between God and His people)
2. When God says that the point of marriage is to bring about godly offspring, how is that connected to faithfulness in marriage? What does a faithful marriage demonstrate to children about the character of God?
3. How do you think about your own marriage, future marriage or singleness considering this passage?

DAY 5

1. Do you find yourself asking the same question that the Israelites asked: “Where is the God of justice?” (v.17) If so, why does that weary God? Recount the ways that God has been just and faithful in your life.
2. What is blasphemy? Look up the definition and examine your heart for traces of blasphemy against God. Where are some areas of your life where you fail to proclaim the faithfulness and truth of God? Where are areas where you faithfully proclaim such things?