Our Response To God
Malachi 1:6-14

Objective: Move people to take the matter of honoring God more seriously.

Reading: Malachi 1:6-14.

Memory: Malachi 1:14.

Introduction:
1. God is the ONE THING that really matters in life. Everything we have and hold dear is from Him. Without Him, we wouldn't even have lives. Wouldn't have possessions, fun or freedom. Doesn't it make sense that we should honor God with the lives He has given us?
2. Yet, it is so normal and natural for us to drift away from honoring and appreciating God an focus on our own wants and business. It's like I said thanks" once and don’t have to worry about it anymore! Well, yes we do. God’s essentiality is so much more significant than that.
3. Throughout the OT, this is what God is trying to teach His people, with His instructions, commands and ordinances. But somehow they keep faltering and missing it (Like us?)
4. In Malachi 1, the fact obvious fact is that God is upset with His people. He has chosen them, loved them, taken care of them, and though they claim to be his people, the attitudes of their lives and worship actually display a disregard toward Him. Have they gotten overly familiar? Have they gotten so caught up in personal affairs that they don’t see and appreciate God anymore? Whatever has caused their disregard for the honor of God, we need to not fall into the same situation.

We need to make sure our lives honor God. (WHY?)

Malachi 1:6-14 reveals two things we can do to make sure we honor God appropriately with our lives.

The reason that God was so upset with Israel is that they were giving Him junk for sacrifices. Their gifts to Him were clearly second rate. Like honoring someone by giving them table scraps. We need to not fall into the same trap. We need to make sure that we

I. Give God Our Very Best.

A. God deserves the best!
   1. Malachi 1:6, “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?” says the LORD Almighty.”
      a. Are you giving God less honor and respect you would give your father or your boss?
   2. You wouldn’t give junk to the governor. Malachi 1:8b, “Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty.”
      a. Are you giving to God something you would be ashamed to offer as a gift to the governor or president?
   3. Its sometimes offensive when advertisers tell us we deserve a $20M car, etc.. How do they know what you deserve? Wanting is not the same as deserving. But God does deserve our best!

B. How did people start giving God their “junk” for gifts?
   1. Surely they knew better than to make such gifts to the Lord!
   2. Was it their busy lives? Things they wanted to do themselves? Trying to get ahead by their own efforts? Thinking about themselves more than HIM?
   3. Was it simple human reasoning? How can I improve my flocks and herds if I give the best away?
   4. Maybe they thought; “I’ll give something, but I worked hard for this, shouldn’t I get to keep the best?
   5. Perhaps the influence of people around them? Point is, its easy and we are prone to same thing.

C. You, yourself, are the primary gift that you are offering to God.
   1. They gave goats and doves. These were a foreshadowing, and illustration of what God really was looking for. Dead goats don’t do Him any good. Dead pigeons don’t really honor Him. What is really an honor is a living sacrifice, by your own intention and desire.
   2. Romans 12:1, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”
   3. Are you a sacrifice to God? Is your life set aside for His use?
   4. They were giving God the sick from their flocks. Where is the honor if I give somebody my “junk”;
the stuff I don’t really need or want anyhow?

a. Do you give just your extra time, or do you intentionally set aside time for Him?
b. Is your time and effort given grudgingly? Or are you eagerly giving Him your best?

5. Our sacrifice is supposed to be without spot or blemish. Are you giving God your life, clean and holy and pure, or are you giving God an offering that is dirty and defiled?

a. Are you half-hearted in your devotion? Is your life defiled by secret sins?
b. Do you fit in and act like everyone else at work or school, or are you really set aside for Him?
c. Does your life (living) belong to Him, or just one or two hours per week “duty”?

The reason that God was so upset with Israel is that they were treating their worship of Him as if it was a nuisance. Folks, we need to make sure that we

II. Take Worship Seriously.

A. It is a privilege to honor God. It DOES matter how you worship God!

1. There is a formal sense of worship; Sunday morning.
   a. Corporate assembly on Sunday morning is Biblical. It is God’s idea. Part of our obedience of faith, Part of our faithfulness to God’s instructions.
   b. Do you dare sit in worship, take communion, sing praises when you know that what you did last night was somehow offensive and dirty to Him?
   c. A time of Christian fellowship. Group prayer, Group singing of praises. Mutual encouragement and admonition. Time to hear God’s Word. Time to participate in the Lord’s Table.
   d. Don’t act like it’s a nuisance.

2. There is a general all-of-life sense of worship as well;
   a. Romans 12:1 again, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”
   b. Every day, every action ought to bring praise and honor to Him.

B. YOU ARE the very temple of God!

1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

2. How do you keep your personal temple to God?
   a. Is your life an honor to God at 3:00 AM on Friday?
   b. Is your life an honor to God when you are tired and weak and exasperated?
   c. Romans 6:11 says, “…count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”
      That’s because you have died with Him, given yourself to Him and sin is no longer an option.
   d. So, when you feel like yielding to temptation to get drunk or lie or yield to sexual lusts, it’s time to acknowledge that those things are sins and they are no longer even an option for you because you have given yourself to God as a living sacrifice!

It might be that you think this is addressed to someone else, but we ought to realize that in the New Testament, every Christian is a priest. The principles in the passage apply to you because

C. As a Christian, you are a priest!

1. 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9, “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ… “…But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

2. Your job as priest is to bridge the gap between God and people; a “go-between”.
3. Your job as priest is to lift others to higher spiritual and devotional levels.
4. Every priest should be pleased and eager to honor God.
   a. Some of them thought the worship and the Lord’s Table was a burden. Malachi 1:13, “And you say, ‘What a burden!’ and you sniff at it contemptuously,” says the LORD Almighty.” One version translates it as a “nuisance”.
   b. Is it a nuisance to you? If it was a joy rather than a nuisance, wouldn’t you be more eager to
come and participate? Why is it that only half as many people come to Bible study as come to worship? Is it because the “class time” is optional and you don’t have to do that to get to heaven, whereas “worship” is something you are really supposed to do?

c. If any part of your worship to God, either corporately worship, or life-worship has become a nuisance, maybe its time to think about how God will receive you and your offering.

d. He will probably reject your offensive gift just like He rejected their offensive worship. Malachi 1:10. “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.”

**So What?**

Let’s not fall into the same selfish, thankless, apathetic trap the Israelites had fallen into. The God who made the heavens and the earth is worthy of our faithful worship and constant devotion. The God who sent His only begotten Son to rescue us while we were yet His enemies, is deserving of all the praise and honor we can muster. Let’s make sure we give God the honor and praise He deserves. Give Him your very best. A living sacrifice that is holy and pure. And, make sure you take worship seriously as an opportunity to rightly give that praise and honor.

**Closing Prayer:**
Our Response To God  
Malachi 1:6-14

Reading: Malachi 1:6-14.  
Memory: Malachi 1:14.  
“C_it_c__w_h_a_a_m_i_h_f_a_v_t_g_i_, b_t_s_a b_a_t_L…”

We need to make sure our lives honor God.  
Two things we can do to make sure we honor God appropriately with our lives.

I. Give God Our Very Best.  
A. God deserves the best!  
   Malachi 1:6   Malachi 1:8b

B. How did people start giving God their “junk” for gifts?

C. YOU are the primary gift that you are offering to God.  
   Romans 12:1

II. Take Worship Seriously.  
A. It is a privilege to honor God.  
   Romans 12:1

B. YOU are the temple of God!  
   1 Corinthians 6:19-20   Romans 6:11

C. YOU are the priest!  
   1 Peter 2:4-5, 9   Malachi 1:13   Malachi 1:10

So What?  
Let’s make sure we give God the honor and praise He deserves.  
Give Him your very best. Make sure you take worship seriously.

Action: (Specify an action or change you will make in your life as a result of this message.)

Date: (When you will check to verify that you have done it.)