

People say I act
like I don't care.
It's not an act.



**CARE FACTOR..
ZERO!**

Contempt for the Lord
Malachi 1:6-14

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- They had been arguing over who was going to be greatest disciple in the Kingdom of God
- Hearing this, Jesus demonstrates the mindset for His kingdom by washing their feet

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- **John 13:12-15 NIV**, 12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- They had been told one of the twelve was going to betray Him
- He taught them that He was going to be killed but come alive again

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- **John 14:15 NIV**, “If you love me, keep my commands.”
 - If you love me = “You all are saying you love me”
 - Your love is evident as authentic if you live by the pattern of My Life I have lived before you
 - This was a mark of a true disciple in Jesus' day
 - One Rabbi passed out on the road one day and his disciples responded by laying down in the road just like him

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- **John 14:21 NIV**, “Whoever has my commands and keeps them (*lives by them, patterns their lives after them*) is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”
- We must be careful that our love for Christ does not turn into religion or ritual for Christ over time

It's been a really tough day for Jesus' disciples

- This is where the Nation of Israel finds themselves
 - Their words say Jehovah is their God and we love and follow Him
 - But their actions speak what is really in their hearts
- God so loved them that He gave them one more Prophet to speak to them by God's authority

Scripture

- **Malachi 1:6 NIV**, “A son honors his father, and a slave 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. “It is you priests who show contempt for my name. “But you ask, ‘How have we shown contempt for your name?’”

We learned last week that the love spoken in this verse carries the ideas of honor and respect

- Without these you may have a warm fuzzy feeling, but it is not God's love
- I can say, "I love a good hamburger", but I don't honor or respect it
 - I might respect the cow providing the sacrifice but that was not offered but taken

We learned last week that the love spoken in this verse carries the ideas of honor and respect

- The same is true in your marriages and families
 - Honor and respect must be present, or it really isn't God's type of love
- Last week we covered the first part of verse 6
- **Malachi 1:6 NIV**, "A son honors his father, and a slave 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.

We learned last week that the love spoken in this verse carries the ideas of honor and respect

- Where is the honor and respect due me?
 - The charge is they say they love and serve God
 - If that is true, there should be evidence of it in their daily lives
 - Or as an old Wendy's commercial said, "Where's the beef?"

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Malachi 1:6b NIV**, “It is you priests who show contempt for my name.”
- Contempt
 - A pattern of attitude and behavior which has the characteristic of disgust and anger
 - The feeling that the person or thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- Contempt
 - Not worth your time, actively displaying scorn to them
 - The feeling or belief that someone or something is worthless or despicable
- Notice this was God's assessment of specifically the priest in Israel but generally everyone in Israel

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- The priest for not ensuring the Law as correctly applied
- The people for purposely not living by God's Word and standards which they knew
- They could hide behind their religious works and activity, but God understands the true nature of what is in their heart and character

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Luke 6:45 NIV**, “A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”
- **ESV**, “for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”
- Or the life lived flows from the abundance of your heart or desires

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Proverbs 16:1-2 NLT**, We can make our own plans, but the Lord gives the right answer. 2 People may be pure in their own eyes, but the Lord examines their motives.

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Proverbs 16:1-2 AMP**, “The plans and reflections of the heart belong to man, But the [wise] answer of the tongue is from the Lord. 2 All the ways of a man are clean and innocent in his own eyes [and he may see nothing wrong with his actions], But the Lord weighs and examines the motives and intents [of the heart and knows the truth].

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- This is not just choosing to live by standards other than God's
 - It is not even caring what God has commanded
 - Until something goes drastically wrong in your life but even then, that is selfish caring

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- They didn't care how God instructed them to live as His people
 - They didn't care of the warnings if they refused
 - Much like Adam and Eve in the Garden
 - They knew what God had said about eating from the tree in the middle of the garden

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- But when Satan proposed an alternate interpretation of God's Word, they desired his version and showed contempt toward God by disobeying His instruction
 - Eve didn't fall dead immediately so Adam followed her example of contempt

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **2nd Peter 3:9 NIV**, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”
 - We interpret that patience as getting away with it when we never really do

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Numbers 25:1-9 NIV**, “1 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, 2 who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. 3 So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord’s anger burned against them.”

God brings to the surface the real reason for the lack of honor and respect, contempt for his name

- **Numbers 25:1-9 NIV**, “6 Then an Israelite man brought into the camp a Midianite woman right before the eyes of Moses and the whole assembly of Israel while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting.”
 - This is a living example of contempt toward God and His Word

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- God's response through His prophet hurt their "feel-good" and they got testy with Malachi and ultimately God
- **Verse 6b**, "How have we shown contempt for your name?"
 - They did not want to believe Malachi, who was speaking for God, even though he was a tested prophet

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- **Malachi 1:7a NIV**, "By offering defiled food on my altar."
 - Defile = To corrupt the purity or perfection of
 - ❖ Imagine a nice, clean, cold glass of water
 - ❖ If I stir some mud in it then I have defiled it
 - ❖ Would you still want to drink it?
 - ❖ Would it be acceptable to you?

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- This is just a single action God has picked out that is so blatant it is beyond defendable
- He is speaking about the offerings they were bringing to the temple and offering to God as acceptable before Him
- Imagine bringing a sick animal to be sacrificed for your sins thinking, "Should be good enough"

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- **Leviticus 17:22-20 NIV**, "17 The Lord said to Moses, 18 "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'If any of you—whether an Israelite or a foreigner residing in Israel—presents a gift for a burnt offering to the Lord, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, 19 you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. 20 Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf."

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- So, what has the Nation been presenting God?
- **Malachi 1:8-9 NIV**, "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.

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- Hear God say, "You want me to accept you, but you do not want to live in a way that will allow me to accept you."
- Listen to what the Message Bible for verses 7-8

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- **Verses 7-8 MSG**, "When you say, 'The altar of God is not important anymore; worship of God is no longer a priority,' that's defiling. And when you offer worthless animals for sacrifices in worship, animals that you're trying to get rid of—blind and sick and crippled animals— isn't that defiling? Try a trick like that with your banker or your senator—how far do you think it will get you?" God-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you."

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- Not only that, but the Priests were complaining to God about the food they were given to eat which was a part of the sacrifice
- **Malachi 1:12-13 NIV**, "12 "But you profane it (*even more*) by saying, 'The Lord's table is defiled,' and, 'Its food is contemptible.' 13 And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the Lord Almighty."

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- Can we hear this type of thinking today?
 - "Church is so boring why should I attend?"
 - "I'm not getting anything exciting from Scriptures anymore, do I need to keep reading them?"
 - "The Bible doesn't really understand what I'm going through, after all it is 2021."

The people's response, "That is incorrect God, where is your proof"

- We want God to accept anything we offer up to Him whether it is worthy of His Name or not
 - At least I can claim a tax exemption
 - What if that wasn't available?

What does God think of their religious service?

- **Malachi 1:10 MSG**, “10 “Why doesn’t one of you just shut the Temple doors and lock them? Then none of you can get in and play at religion with this silly, empty-headed worship. I am not pleased. The God-of-the-Angel-Armies is not pleased. And I don’t want any more of this so-called worship!”
 - Shut the door, turn out the lights. There’s nothing important or valuable going on in there

What does God think of their religious service?

- Here was a temple dedicated to the worship of Jehovah God
 - The activity within that structure was designed to bring honor, glory, and respect to Jehovah God leading to love for Him
 - The activity there from God's perspective was anything but honor and respect

What does God think of their religious service?

- If this is how you are going to worship me going forward, then someone who understands please close the doors of the temple, “I’m not open for business.”
 - It’s not that the Israelites were not religious
 - They were not honoring and respecting God Almighty, nor His Scripture

What does God think of their religious service?

- God does not accept religion or religious activities just because we do them
- They must be anchored in Scripture to ensure we are honoring and respecting and loving God according to His standards and not our own nor the current culture

So, what does God think of our or your religious service?

- What have you been offering to God and why?
 - Is there anything in your weekly life that is showing contempt to God's Name from His perspective?
 - Do you even care?

So, what does God think of our or your religious service?

- Good News
 - God is giving Israel the opportunity to come back to Him and be fully restored to wholeness
- **2nd Peter 3:9 NIV**, “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

So, what does God think of our or your religious service?

- There is salvation, forgiveness, wholeness found only in the cross of Jesus Christ
- Come to the cross or come back to the cross and allow the overflowing of God's acceptance return to you along with His peace, joy and love

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