



Kingdom of Priests

Malachi 2:1-9

- **Matthew 5:14-16 NIV**, “14 You are the light (*of truth*) of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
- **Verse 14 AMP**, “14 “You are the light of [Christ to] the world.”

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- The religious leaders, those who should have known about Jesus, had rejected Him
- You are what stand between a holy, righteous God and eternally unrighteous, separated people and God longs to reach
- Serve me by shining the truth in your speech, priorities, lives
- You are my priests in the Kingdom of God

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- **Exodus 19:1-6 NIV**, “5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- The Nation of Israel was chosen and empowered by God to be His priests (*ambassadors*) to the nations of the world
- A kingdom of priests shining their light by serving God before the world
- They were to be the shining light of Jehovah in their lost and sinful world

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- They were to turn outward living the light of truth while keeping inward the blessing of God's presence through faith and obedience to His Word
- Now Jesus tells us Israel's identity as a kingdom of priests finds a greater fulfillment in the church – We are now the light of the world
- Israel was delivered by the blood of the Passover Lamb where the church was delivered by the final Passover Lamb, the blood of Jesus

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- **1st Peter 2:5 NIV**, “5 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.
- **1st Peter 2:9 NIV**, “9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare (*through voice and lives*) the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

Jesus was speaking to plain, ordinary Jewish people

- We as Born-Again Children of God are called to be light for Christ in this spiritually dark world
- You have been saved to shine the truth you found in Christ through His Word
- **2nd Corinthians 5:20 NIV**, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

His Word is not suggestions on how to live

- By commands and examples that you must blend into your thoughts so they will affect how you live out your daily lives
- So, it does matter what light is shining from your lives

His Word is not suggestions on how to live

- The light coming from the Nation of Israel had become such that the world could see little if any difference so why should they pay any attention to them?
- God addresses these words specifically to the priests but also to the entire Jewish Nation through His prophet Malachi

Scripture

- **Malachi 2:1-9 NIV**, “And now, you priests, this warning is for you. 2 If you do not listen, and if you do not resolve to honor 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 honor me.”

Scripture

- **Malachi 2:1-9 NIV**, 3 “Because of you I will rebuke your descendants (*or will blight your grain*); I will smear on your faces the dung from your festival sacrifices, and you will be carried off with it. 4 And you will know that I have sent you this warning so that my covenant with Levi may continue,” says the Lord Almighty.

Scripture

- **Malachi 2:1-9 NIV**, 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. 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.

Scripture

- **Malachi 2:1-9 NIV**, 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.”

The first word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – Listen

- Now husbands, have you ever been accused by your wife of not listening to her?
 - Sometimes that is hearing and understand her words but choosing to ignore them – shame on us
 - Most of the time though it is our attention is somewhere else, you hear the sound of her voice, but you don't actually hear her words then they simply slip away from our attention – shame on us

The first word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – Listen

- Kingdom of Priests, God is telling us today in **Verse 2**, “If you do not listen...” there will be consequences
 - Listen with intent to hear the voice of God in His Scriptures
 - To search with intent to find His way of living and responding for us
 - Listen with intent to understand what is being commanded of us, either explicit or by example

The first word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – Listen

- Kingdom of Priests, God is telling us today in **Verse 2**, “If you do not listen...” there will be consequences
 - We are not reading His Scripture like a novel in bed waiting to get sleepy enough to fall asleep
 - We are seriously interested, consumed, in knowing how we are to live as Kingdom of Priests

The first word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – Listen

- How can I live where the light shining from my life brings glory and honor to Jesus Christ consistently?
 - Listen with intent to obey God's Word and the prompting of His Holy Spirit on how to live our lives in the here and now as part of His Kingdom of Priest

The first word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – Listen

- **John 10:27-28 NIV**, “27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (*Why?*) 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”
- **Psalms 25:4-5 NIV**, “4 Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. 5 Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- We fail to realize at times that around the throne of God the created beings are waiting and eager to respond to every word their Creator speaks to them
 - This is what Jesus left behind to take up the limitation of flesh to become our perfection sin sacrifice
 - We seem to believe **WE** are the master of our own universe

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- **Verse 2**, “If you do not listen, (*What does God mean by listening?*) and if you do not resolve (*determine in your heart*) to honor my name,” says the Lord Almighty, “I will send a curse on you, and I will curse your blessings (*I will withhold blessing I have set aside for you*). Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not resolved to honor me.”
 - These are not my words by God’s

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- In other words, He will take away our blessings from Him we have now and those planned are set aside
 - Well Randy, this does not sound like a loving God
 - How can He bless us when we fail to honor and respect Him and our position as Priests in His Kingdom – Would you?

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- Please hear, this has nothing to do with your salvation as long as you have been truly born-again
 - Some of this is the natural result of sin you have failed to remove from your lives
 - Your sinful (*priestless*) nature will be passed down to your children and their children after them

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- Please not fear here Christians who are living for Jesus to the best of their abilities
 - You hear God's voice and wrestle with your sinful nature to be obedient but still trip and fall at times
 - These words are for those who are being their own master of their lives

The second word God has for His Kingdom of Priests is – consequences, which will follow if you fail to listen

- It is an established character of rebellion toward God
- He might be your Savior but not your Lord and Master and we have been saved to become disciples of Jesus
- These words from God are for those who just don't care what God has said or desires
- They are going to live their lives by their own rules
- If this is you, then you better check your salvation

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- God uses the life of Levi as an example for how are we to live as His people
 - Levi was one of the twelve sons of Jacob
 - He had a violent temper that led him to sinful acts

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- **Genesis 49:5-7 AMP**, “5 Simeon and Levi are brothers [equally headstrong, deceitful, vindictive, and cruel]; Their swords are weapons of violence and revenge. 6 “O my soul, do not come into their secret council; Let not my glory (honor) be united with their assembly [for I knew nothing of their plot]; Because in their anger they killed men [an honored man, Shechem, and the Shechemites], And in their self-will they lamed oxen.”

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- **Genesis 49:5-7 AMP**, “7 “Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; And their wrath, for it was cruel. I will divide and disperse them in Jacob, And scatter them in [the midst of the land] of Israel.”
- Because of this God did not give Levi an inheritance of land when Israel entered and occupied Canaan
- God said He would spread the clan of Levi out among all the other clans of Israel

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- But God blessed the tribe of Levi by giving them the responsibility of serving Him as His direct priests
- They were given the responsibility of ensuring Israel followed all the commands of the Law
- Did that have an impact on Levi?

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- **Malachi 2:5-6**, “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. 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.”

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- The clan of Levi learned to revere God and stood or lived out their lives in awe of Him
- They spoke and lived true instruction God had given them
- There was no falsehood found within their clan
- They walked in peace and uprightness before God
- Their lives became the light of the Lord and many saw and responded to their lives lived

The third word God has for His Kingdom of Priest is – How

- Should this not be our list of life as well Christians?
- Let me ask you some questions?
 - Does your salvation have this type of impact on your life?
 - Can you honestly say you are working toward that destination?
 - Can you honestly say you are in awe of your Heavenly Father?

Hebrews 13:8 NIV, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

- **Numbers 23:19 NIV, “God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”**
 - Now if God was this serious about Israel being a Kingdom of Priests, how can we possibly think He would not be equally serious about us

Hebrews 13:8 NIV, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

- **Malachi 3:6-7 NIV, “6 I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. 7 Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.”**
 - There is your promise
 - Return to me and I will return to you with all your blessings intact

Hebrews 13:8 NIV, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

- There is a term that came from tennis, “The ball is in your court”
 - The ball has been returned to you, and you must decide what you are going to do with it
- The ball Christian, is now in your court this morning
- What will you do with it?



Kingdom of Priests

Malachi 2:1-9