

A Sinful Nation Playing Innocent

Malachi 1:1-2

Introduction:

- A. Israel after return from Babylon became very corrupt.
- B. The Lord through Malachi offers a series of rebukes in Nehemiah's day.
- C. Israel's responds to each rebuke with a question that feigned innocence.
- D. Note the rebukes and Israel's response:

Discussion:

I. God Proclaims His Love and Their Response (1:2)

- A. "Wherein has thou loved us?"
- B. Ignored God's special favors to them (vv. 2-5).
- C. We sometimes forget God's love.
 - 1. Providential care, prosperity, freedom, moral agency etc.
 - 2. Spiritual blessings: forgiveness, fellowship, etc.

II. God Charges Priest with Pollution and Their Response (1:6-7).

- A. "Wherein have we..."
- B. Offered unacceptable sacrifices (8-11)
- C. We can offer unacceptable worship (Mt.15:9; cf. Lev. 10:1-5).

III. God Charges Them with profane Worship and Their Response (1:12, 13).

- A. "Behold, what a weariness it is!"
- B. They snuffed or sneered at it.
- C. Have know people to sneer at NT worship.
 - 1. Too dull - what a weariness.
 - 2. Too "legalistic" - what a weariness.

IV. God Charges Them Unlawful Marriage and Their Response (2:11-14)

- A. "Wherefore?"
- B. Had spiritually and literally unlawfully married – divorced "wives of their youth"
- C. Our mounting divorce rate and remarriage rate.
 - 1. The parties say, "Wherefore?"
 - 2. Christians say, "Wherefore?"
 - 3. Preachers say, "Wherefore?"
 - 4. Churches say, "Wherefore?"

V. God Charges Them of Wearying Him with Words and Their Response (2:17).

- A. "Wherein have we wearied him?"
- B. Claimed must be right or God would have already judged them.
- C. We often mistakes God's longsuffering for approval.

VI. God Charges Them to Return to Him and Their Response (3:7).

- A. "Wherein shall we return?"
- B. Did not think they needed to return.
- C. We can drift away and not recognize it. (Heb. 2:1-4)
- D. Must return for him to return to us.

VII. God Charges Them with Robbing God and Their Response (3:8).

- A. "Wherein have we robbed thee?"
- B. Had withheld tithes and offerings.
- C. We may rob God by withholding contributions (1 Cor. 16:2).

Conclusion:

- A. Are you saying "Wherein" and "Wherefore" to God.
- B. The need to obey gospel? To be restored? To correct you life in someway?