

# Who, Me?

## Malachi 1:1-5

### Introduction:

- A. Israel after return from Babylon had become corrupt.
  - 1. God through Malachi, a prophet in Nehemiah's day, rebukes Israel.
  - 2. Israel acts like a spoiled brat in her response to God.
    - a. "Who, me?"; "So, what?"; "Show me!" attitude.
    - b. Like a smart-aleck back talking child.
- B. Israel raised several objections to the Lord's statements.

### Discussion:

#### I. "Wherein Has Thou Loved Us?" (1:2)

- A. They forgot God's special favors to Israel. (vv. 2-5)
- B. We sometimes forget God's blessings.
  - 1. His providential care, our prosperity, freedom, etc.
  - 2. His spiritual blessings: forgiveness, fellowship, etc.

#### II. "Wherein Have We Despised Thy Name? (1:6)

- A. They had offered unacceptable sacrifices. (vv. 7-11).
  - 1. Unauthorized worship is vain (Matt. 15:9; Lev. 10:1-5)
  - 2. Unworthy manner makes worship vain (1 Cor. 11:29)
- B. They sneered at acceptable worship (vv. 13-14 see also NIV).
  - 1. Consider it too much trouble - what a weariness.
  - 2. Consider it too dull - what a weariness.
  - 3. Consider it too "legalistic" - what a weariness.

#### III. "Wherefore?" (2:11-14).

- A. They had divorced "wives of youth" -- "Wherefore" or "so what" (2:11-16).
- B. We have a mounting divorce and remarriage problem. (Mt. 5:32, 19:9).
  - 1. The parties say, "Wherefore?"
  - 2. Preachers say, "Wherefore?"
  - 3. Churches say, "Wherefore?"

#### IV. "Wherein Have We Wearied Him?" (2:17).

- A. They claimed God must have favored their evil or else would have already judged them.
- B. We sometimes think that God favors us because He does not stop us immediately.

#### V. "Wherein Shall We Return?" (3:7).

- A. They had gone away from God's ordinances - refused to recognize it.
- B. We can drift away. (Heb. 2:1-4)
- C. We must return to the Lord, if we want him to return to us.

#### VI. "Wherein Have We Robbed Thee?" (3:8).

- A. They had withheld tithes and offerings.
- B. We may rob God by withholding contributions. (1 Cor. 16:2)

### Conclusion:

- A. Are you saying, "Who, me?" or "wherein?" or "Wherefore?"
- B. Are you saying "Wherein do I need pardon?" or "Wherefore" to the fact you haven't obeyed the gospel?