

NOTES 10/16/2022

Malachi 2:1-9 (ESV) 1 “And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. 3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the LORD of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

DISCUSSION

- What is the covenant with Levi? What do the circumstances surrounding it teach us about ourselves and God's care for us?
- What led the priests to corrupt their ministry? How should this serve as a caution for us (corporately as a church and as individuals)?
- What does the judgment of the unfaithful priests show us about God?
- How do we see the kindness and grace of God at play in this seemingly-harsh passage of scripture?
- What are some key features of the true ministry of God's word revealed to us here?
- How is Jesus the true and better priest?
- What are some other implications for us as a church from what we have seen?

PRAYER

Pray for the ministry of the Word among us a Covenant Grace.

- That God would protect it cause it to happen truly now and into the future.
- Pray for our hearts toward it – that we would value it and engage as we ought to.

Share what is burdening you and pray together for God's practical and spiritual provision. Consider how you can help your brothers/sisters.