

Overview

Malachi starts this next passage of scripture with the theme of unity. He is pointing all of his listeners back to the basic foundation of having One Father and One God. At this point in their history they had forgotten their roots. They have created a legacy of disobedience causing them to sway away from the very one that created them as a nation. The point of unity is further illustrated in the following verses discussing marriage. Jewish men were not to marry foreign women. This practice was established because of it causing spiritual disunity within the home. Even King Solomon fell into the trap of being led astray from God. 1 Kings 11:4 reads: “⁴ As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.” Spiritual disunity within the home is not good for a marriage and it is definitely not good for leaving a strong spiritual legacy for the next generation. Judah was breaking one of the foundational covenants with God and trying to cover it up by still bringing in their regular offerings. God saw right through their efforts and did not accept the offerings. Religious rituals do not replace spiritual devotion. The tears they shed were not over their sin, but rather were because God did not accept their offerings. They had the right actions but the wrong heart. No amount of unrepentant tears will change God’s stance against sin. Malachi also tells his listeners that if they have married foreign women they are to remain faithful to them. The bottom line is God does not want broken homes. He wants faithfulness over religious activity. It is important to remember that no matter what the situation is that we serve a God that is big enough to handle all of our short comings.

Bible Study: Malachi 2:10-16

1. What is the legacy you inherited from your parents? How would you like to either pass it on or change it for the next generation?
2. Read Ephesians 5:25-33. Why do you believe God uses the marriage relationship as a symbolic representation of His relationship with the church?
3. Discuss as a group: “religious rituals do not replace spiritual devotion.” How does someone know if they are doing something out of habit or devotion?
4. Read Malachi 2:13. Can someone be sorrowful and yet unrepentant? Discuss how this can or cannot be possible.
5. Read 1 Kings 11:4 & 2 Corinthians 6:14-16. Why is spiritual unity so important in a marriage? What can a husband or wife do if their spouse is not a believer?
6. Read Malachi 2:15. What are the top two or three steps parents can take to raise godly offspring? What role does spiritual unity in the marriage have in raising godly kids?
7. Twice in Malachi 2:15-16 the phrase “be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful” appears twice. In what ways can you guard yourself against possible unfaithfulness in your relationship with God?