

Malachi 2.10-16

What does God say about Marriage?

Theory of Evolution > Human Race getting Better & Better

Teaching of Bible > Human Race is getting Worse and Worse

Proof > Bible Opens – Sovereign God speaks Perfect World – Man & Woman in God’s Image –

Urged to Enjoy God/world – BLESSING

Bible Ends w CURSE from God “lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction” Malachi 4.6

Message of Malachi called BURDEN > Would prefer Silence & Peace

Preach thru Bible like Read Bible – Ch by Ch, Vs by Vs – Tough Passage

Bumper Sticker on Car: “Don’t Change Kohala, Let Kohala Change U”

Switched: “*Lord Jesus, in your Mercy, change Kohala, for without You we are heading to hell*”
> Step Into Middle Ch 2 – Brokenness in Families

We have come to chapter 2 in our study of message of Prophet Malachi

Ancient Messenger: 450 BC Prophet to Jews after 70 yrs of exile Babylon

Scripture > Written 1000’s years ago > Malachi Reads our Newspaper

Living God: Ancient Messengers Living WORD for All People, All Time

God of Malachi is our God & Father of Jesus X

MODERN MESSAGE > 3.6 “I the Lord do not change”

Homer, 29 C ago: “There is nothing more admirable than 2 people who see eye-to-eye keeping house as man & wife, confounding their enemies and delighting their friends.”

“Marriage is a great institution if you get it right.” Donald Trump

God’s LOVE is UNCHANGING and UNENDING 1.2 “I have loved you”

Man’s HEART is UNCARING and UNFAITHFUL to the Lord Almighty

Ch 1 Worshippers > Sacrifice Blind, Crippled, Diseased on Lord’s Altar

Ch 2 Priests > EARS/HEARTS are CLOSED to the Lord of Covenant

Priests had broken their Promises 2.1-9, but so had the People....

Men of Israel came to New Land, New Opportunities, want NEW WIVES

v. 15 “guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the
wife of your youth”

Good Jewish Wives who made Great CHICKEN SOUP & MATZOHS

Found Pretty Young Tarts v. 11 “married the daughter of a foreign god”

// Nehemiah > same time as Malachi – SAME BATTLE “In those days I saw men of Judah who had married (foreign) women...Half of their children...did not know how to speak the language of Judah. *I rebuked them and called curses down on them. I beat some of the men and pulled out their hair. I made them take an oath in God's name* and said: "You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for your sons or for yourselves...Must we hear now that you too are doing all this terrible wickedness and are being unfaithful to our God by marrying foreign women?" Nehemiah 13.23-27

TODAY – Focus on ONE QUESTION from passage >What is Marriage?

Diff. btwn what God's Word and Man's State says about Marriage

Today: How would Malachi define Marriage? > 6 POINTS

1. Companionship

v. 14 “the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant” > Loss of Intimacy, Deep Sharing

Companionship of Marriage > Building Block for Good of SOCIETY

12 May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant

Sin > Failure to keep a trust, Failure to keep a commitment.

Breaking of an agreement or covenant or contract or promise.

2 Ways to Live Together > Malachi points to Faithful Community

Life God Designed: Fulfill Promises, Oaths, Covenants SHALOM!

GOD & World LOOKING for People of their Word – Trustworthy

Marriage is Easiest Way for World to Know you Promise Keeper

Malachi Preaching and Praying for God's Shalom / Peace & Purity

Children 2 parents/ parents 2 kids - Husbands 2 wives/ wives 2 husbands.

Employer 2 employee/employee 2 employer- Citizen 2 state/state 2 citizen

Community held together by deep strong spirit of covenant-keeping

Fabric of Community is Trustworthiness of People

Do we keep their commitments?

Other way for People to try to Live > Disorder of Self-Indulgence

Commitment-keeping replaced by Emotional & Physical Impulse

Moral fabric of faithfulness to covenants and promises is unraveled

What's left are Individual Strands of Private Gratification > All about ME

2. Creation Design

v. 10 “Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?”

v. 15 'Did he not make them one, w a portion of the Spirit in their union?

God saw LONELY Adam: “Not good that man is alone” Gen 2.18

NAMED Animals but NONE could Provide > Spiritual Union

EDEN > God made them “male and female” > Adam & Eve (not Steve)

Made by Sovereign God w/STANDARDS > MORAL ABSOLUTES

Owner’s MANUAL: Explain how Something Works > God’s Word Bible

Not just Xtian Truth: CREATION Reality > Every Society & Religion

One Man with One Woman become ONE for a LIFETIME

3. Covenant

God’s Sanctuary: v. 12 “who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts”

People who BROKE Promises to God & Partners > Seek Academy Award

13 You cover the Lord’s altar w tears, w weeping & groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.

When MAN IGNORED God > MAN was NOT BOTHERED at All

When GOD SEEMS to Ignore God > MAN Tears, Weeping, Groaning

Not Need PhD to Live in Covenant: Blessing? OBEY/ Cursing? Disobey!

v. 14 “‘ But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant’

Promise to God becomes Hollow if we cannot keep Promises to Spouse

10 Why are we faithless to 1 another, profaning covenant of our fathers?”

Promise KEEPER or a Promise BREAKER > Character, Consistency

MARRIAGE > God Created Institution > First of all INSTITUTIONS

Children, Education, State, Courts, Medicine: FLOW from Marriage

A woman finds herself pregnant & wants to abort, or a man feels bogged down by commitments to job, spouse & children & wants out. A person's aging parents are interfering with his pleasures, and he wants someone to take them off his hands. A man wants to sleep with his secretary, or is tired of making a living and desires relief from his commitments. How we, as a society and as individuals, view the decisions made about fulfilling these desires is the crux of the problem.

Daniel Yankelovich

Jesus 2 Samaritan Woman: “Spring of Water welling up to Eternal Life”

Jesus “Go call your husband” God wants Wholeness > Complete People

Apostle Paul wrote to Christians in a SEX CRAZED city named Corinth -

Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 1 Corinthians 6.16

Prostitute? 1 Flesh? Don't know name, where lives, never seen again

Shocked by Description PERMANENCE “that was Nothing” “Forget it!”

Problem: Not Forget: God Knows > You Know > Others may soon Know

When Playmates get OLD, Thrown Away, Left only feeling EXPLOITED

David Hubbard “the God given pattern is 1 wife, 1 husband for a lifetime. The roving eye, the flirting hand, the casual dalliance, the passionate affair, the bored fed-upness, the cruel abandonment that we see around us, and are sometimes tempted to imitate, are not part of God's pattern”

4. Conception

v. 15 'Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.

SOME MARRIAGES are CHILDLESS > PAINFUL to Many Couples

Exception does not BREAK THE RULE

Looking for MARRIAGE PARTNER? Watch out for person who says,

“I do not want any kids” > OFTEN > Reflection their own Selfishness

Doesn't want to SHARE the ATTENTION

WHEN God made Marriage He commanded FIRST COUPLE –

Gen 1.28 "Be fruitful & increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.”

v. 15 LORD GOD “seeking godly offspring” > Gay Marriage Impossible

COLLEGE Classmates > Married > Mission Work, Christian Publishing

9 Children > Visited > Admired > Disciplined, Loving, Bright, Godly

“We pray our children will change world for Jesus”/All Grad Covenant

Same PURPOSE > 1 CHILD or 1 DOZEN > From God and For God

5. Commitment

James BOICE “The marriage vow is the most solemn, official commitment a person can make....If you are a naturalized American citizen, you have sworn loyalty to the United States of America. But you can reverse that commitment, becoming an expatriate, and no one – certainly not God – will be offended. In the army you took an oath of obedience to your commanding officers, but only for a limited period of time...The only thing more solemn is the commitment Christians make to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. But even that is not always so formal. So I repeat: no commitment you or I can make is more solemn and official as the one we make to our husband or wife in the marriage ceremony. It is a commitment involving the other person, the state, and God.”

Marriage NOT Weekend Event > unless you're Instagram Influencer

1935 Lutheran Pastor > Walter Maier wrote book on Marriage

WARNED about RISING RATES of Divorce in America thru 1930's

AT THIS RATE > 1950's one FOURTH > 1990's one HALF

Prediction CALLED by Critics > “Hairbrained Hallucination”

MAIER WAS NOT HAIRBRAINED ENOUGH

1920 > One Divorce for every SEVEN Marriages

1940 > One Divorce for every SIX Marriages

1960 > One Divorce for every FOUR Marriages

1972 > One Divorce for every THREE Marriages

1977 > 13 yrs ahead Maier's Schedule > 1 Divorce for every 2 Marriages

Seriousness of Marriage evokes some of BIBLE'S Strongest Language

NOT MANY TIMES in Bible > God HATES Anything

God HATES Divorce v. 16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. >>
DISPUTED TEXT

Joyce BALDWIN “A figurative expression for all kinds of gross injustice which, like the blood of a murdered victim, leave their mark for all to see”

- NOT God hates the CHILDREN of Divorce

Many HATE Themselves, Blame Themselves > SOME Hate God

- NOT God hates Divorced PEOPLE – God hates what Divorce DOES

To Couple > Children > Extended Family > Society > Nation > World

Malachi > Permissive View Divorce > Bad Example Divorced PRIESTS

What about Church today? > rarely will SPEAK OUT on Divorce

Not easy > ALWAYS PAINFUL, MESSY & COMPLICATED

Divorced People already FEEL Bad > Do not RUB their Noses in it Again

Church > place of Grace and Hope > AND Truth and Righteousness

Direct Link > Corruption in the Nation and the Collapse of the Home

SCARED Silence of CHRISTIAN CHURCH > Made Problem WORSE

For Sake of Married Couples > Children > Family > Society > World

JAMES BOICE “I am charging evangelical ministers with being part of the breakdown in our national marriage morality. I am not asking them to ignore the (biblical grounds for divorce). But I am challenging them to limit them as severely as the Bible itself does and to let the clear cry of the evangelical pulpit be that God hates divorce and stands against it as a witness to the original contract of a man and a woman in marriage.”

6. Centered on the Spiritual

Interesting Description v. 11 “married the daughter of a foreign god”

NOT > daughter of Accountant, or a Teacher, Mr. Jones of Persia

OR > Woman who is a Nurse, University Graduate, Beautiful Blonde

NOT A CONTRACT but a COVENANT > More than the CEREMONY

COUPLES seek Me/PASTOR to Perform Wedding / Made any Plans?

Place, Wedding Party, Guest List, Food, Colors of Dresses & Decorations

What about your Vows? What kind of promise are you going to make?

“Oh, we haven’t thought about that yet....do you have any ideas?”

Most Problems: Underlying CAUSES are SPIRITUAL > View of God

v. 11 Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the Lord, which he loves – HOW? -- has married the daughter of a foreign god.

Psalmist asks “LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?” God answers: “He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart” Psalm 15.1,2

v. 12 May the Lord cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the Lord of hosts!

v. 14 you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

Malachi AGAINST MIXED MARRIAGES: Not Ethnic but Spiritual

Israel Out of Egypt “a mixed multitude went up also with them” Ex 12.38

Moses’ wife African/Cushite/Ethiopia - Boaz married RUTH from Moab

Mixed Marriage Bible = SPIRITUALLY Mixed > Believer & Unbeliever

Paul to Corinth – “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers” 2 Cor 6.14

2 People of DIFFERENT Religions Marry > 1 MUST COMPROMISE

OFTEN > ADOPT the LEAST DEMANDING of their Two Religions

Much Easier to sit around House in your Underwear on Sunday Mornings

Than to Get Dressed up and Go out to Church

Olivia Langdon > Raised by Xtian Parents > Professed OWN Faith in X

Man OPEN CRITIC of Christianity > Courted Her > She Fell in Love

AGREED to Marry > Hoping to Bring the Man to FAITH

Began Well > Estab Family Devotions > Regul Bible Reading & Prayer

SURPRISED MAN’S FRIENDS > All Knew him as GREAT SKEPTIC

One Day – Time for Devotions – Husband > MARK TWAIN: “Livy you may keep this up if you want to, but I must ask you to excuse me from it. It is making me a hypocrite. I don’t believe in the Bible; it contradicts my reason. I can’t sit here and listen to it, letting you believe that I regard it as you do, in the light of the Gospel, the Word of God.”

MARK TWAIN had NO FAITH > Eventually Neither Did Wife

Later in Life > Painful Tragedy Occurred in Family

Twain to wife: “Livy, if it comforts you to lean on Christian faith, do so!”

Wife: “I can’t --- I do not have any”

Strong EMPHASIS > when God says something better LISTEN > 2 X’s

Apostle Paul Greatest Biblical teachings on MARRIAGE > Ephesians 5

Husband AND Wife > Submit to ONE ANOTHER > Be Like Jesus

HUSBAND > Like Jesus > Loving, Sacrificial, LEADERSHIP

WIFE > Like Jesus > Loving SUBMISSION

BEFORE giving ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE COMMANDS about Marriage

“Be (CONTINUALLY) filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns & spiritual songs. Sing & make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus X” Ephesians 5.18-20

Impossible FULFILL God’s Covenant without HOLY SPIRIT’s Power

Impossible have Holy Spirit without Salvation thru the Lord Jesus Christ

Only HOPE 4 Vibrant, Loving, Dynamic, Life-Long Marriage: Jesus X

JESUS attended a Wedding at Cana in Galilee> He’ll come to Yours too!

John 2.2 “Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding”

DID YOUR GUEST LIST INCLUDE JESUS CHRIST > Not TOO Late!

BIBLE Ends w Wonderful Picture of His Unceasing Love

BIBLE > All Believers > Global Church > All Time, Tongues, Tribes

WILL BECOME THE BRIDE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

JOYFUL ANTICIPATION of Wedding Feast

APOSTLE JOHN: “heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” And he added, “These are the true words of God. ... ”
Revelation 19.6-9

Psalm 87 On the holy mount stands the city he founded; // **the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.** // Glorious things of you are spoken, O city of God. // **Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon;** // behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush — “This one was born there,” they say. // **And of Zion it shall be said, “This one and that one were born in her”;** // for the Most High himself will establish her. // **The Lord records as he registers the peoples, “This one was born there.”** // Singers and dancers alike say, // **“All my springs are in you.”**
Amen and Amen.