

Called to Renew My Worship Malachi 1:6-14

- **Aspect #1: GOD CALLS ME TO EVALUATE MY HEART ATTITUDE IN WORSHIP.**

The LORD Almighty says to the priests: "A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. I am your father and master, but where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have despised my name! But you ask, 'How have we ever despised your name?' ⁷You have despised my name by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar. Then you ask, 'How have we defiled the sacrifices?' You defile them by saying the altar of the Lord deserves no respect."

Malachi 1:6-7 (New Living Translation)

. . . because of God's great mercy . . . offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Romans 12:1 (Good News Translation)

"You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. . . ." Genesis 4:7 (NLT)

Questions: Does my heart attitude toward God reflect honor and respect? Are my acts of worship enthusiastic, whole-hearted, and freely given?

- **Aspect #2: GOD CALLS ME TO EVALUATE THE GIFTS I BRING IN WORSHIP.**

"When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn't that wrong? And isn't it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!" says the LORD Almighty. ⁹"Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why

should he show you any favor at all?" asks the Lord Almighty. ¹⁰"I wish that someone among you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not at all pleased with you," says the LORD Almighty, "and I will not accept your offerings . . . ¹²"But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it's all right to defile the Lord's table." Malachi 1:8-12 (NLT)

. . . Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."
Mark 12:43-44 (New International Version)

But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV)

Questions: Do my gifts to God of time, talent and treasure cost me something? Is my worship sacrificial?

- **Aspect #3: GOD CALLS ME TO EVALUATE THE AUTHENTICITY OF MY WORSHIP.**

"And you say, 'What a burden!' and you sniff at it contemptuously," says the LORD Almighty. "When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the LORD. ¹⁴"Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the LORD Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations." Malachi 1:13-14 (NIV)

Question: Do I promise my time, talent and treasure, but fail to follow through because it's hard?