



God Deserves more than Leftovers

Sermon
Notes by:
Stephen
Herrod

MESSAGE:

GOD DESERVES MORE THAN YOUR LEFTOVERS

PASSAGE: MALACHI 1:6-13 MSG

6 “Isn’t it true that a son honors his father and a worker his master? So if I’m your Father, where’s the honor? If I’m your Master, where’s the respect?” GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is calling you on the carpet: “You priests despise me!

“You say, ‘Not so! How do we despise you?’

“By your shoddy, sloppy, defiling worship. “You ask, ‘What do you mean, “defiling”? What’s defiling about it?’

7-8 “When you say, ‘The altar of GOD is not important anymore; worship of GOD is no longer a priority,’ that’s defiling. And when you offer worthless animals for sacrifices in worship, animals that you’re trying to get rid of—blind and sick and crippled animals— isn’t that defiling? Try a trick like that with your banker or your senator—how far do you think it will get you?” GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you.

9 “Get on your knees and pray that I will be gracious to you. You priests have gotten everyone in trouble. With this kind of conduct, do you think I’ll pay attention to you?” GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies asks you.

10 “Why doesn’t one of you just shut the Temple doors and lock them? Then none of you can get in and play at religion with this silly, empty-headed worship. I am not

pleased. The GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies is not pleased. And I don’t want any more of this so-called worship!

11 “I am honored all over the world. And there are people who know how to worship me all over the world, who honor me by bringing their best to me. They’re saying it everywhere: ‘God is greater, this GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies.’

12-13 “All except you. Instead of honoring me, you profane me. You profane me when you say, ‘Worship is not important, and what we bring to worship is of no account,’ and when you say, ‘I’m bored—this doesn’t do anything for me.’ You act so superior, sticking your noses in the air—act superior to *me*, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies! And when you do offer something to me, it’s a hand-me-down, or broken, or useless. Do you think I’m going to accept it? This is GOD speaking to you!

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message is to emphasize the importance of offering God our best in worship and sacrifice. The sermon aims to encourage one to examine the quality of their worship and to understand that giving God your best is not only what God deserves



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but also beneficial for our spiritual fulfillment and purpose in life.

ILLUSTRATION

My dad tells the story of growing up in Bessemer, Alabama at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where his dad served as a deacon and the Pastor would be present on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. When the Pastor would come to Bessemer, one of the deacons and his family would host the Pastor for a meal, and one thing is for sure: when the Pastor would come to their house, Mother didn't feed him leftovers, but they gave the Pastor their best. When my dad would learn the Pastor was coming over, he was so happy because he knew that it would be a feast. Mother would cook the choicest meats, sides, and desserts from their stock and the local market because they considered the opportunity to host the Pastor at their house as honorable. I tell this story to illustrate the disturbing reality that there is someone far more honorable than the Pastor who is not pleased when He receives our leftovers rather than our best, and that is God.

It's not that God's people doesn't worship Him with their lips, but it is suspect if God's people truly worship Him with their life, and this passage is a warning to the Pastor and people that if you truly love God, and if you truly honor God, then it will be evidenced in the various offerings of worship.

SERMON POINTS

1. GOD DESERVES, DESIRES, AND DEMANDS OUR BEST

From what we read in Malachi 1:6-13, we know that God called out the priests for being dishonorable and disrespectful because instead of giving God their best, they were giving God the leftovers and the least valuable sacrifices, demonstrating a lack of genuine respect and honor. Worship comes from an Old English word that means "worthship" and it simply is to ascribe worth to someone. The problem is that they were treating God as if God was worthless. Interestingly, their worship with their lips told a story that God was worthy, but their worship with their sacrifice told a story that God was worthless. Beloved, your worship unto God is a clear indication of how much God means to you. See, the problem that God had was not whether they worshiped him or not, because that was not the problem. These people worshiped God, but the problem was their quality of worship! What we have to understand is that God has guidelines for how we are to worship him. Let me first tell you the guidelines that God gave them, and then I will make this applicable by telling you the guidelines for worship that God has given you.

Here are the guidelines for worship in the context of this passage:



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According to Leviticus 22:20, God made it clear that he would only accept pure and unblemished animals as sacrifices of worship. According to Deuteronomy 15:21, God made it clear that he would not accept any animals that are diseased, blemished, crippled, or blind. Animals that did not have any blemishes or defects were considered acceptable in God's eyes because they were of the highest value, and given their value, to sacrifice it would be considered an acceptable sacrifice because of how costly it was. Such animals that did have blemishes or defects was considered unacceptable in God's eyes, because they were of little to no value, and given their value, to sacrifice it would be considered an unacceptable sacrifice because of how worthless it was. If you offered an animal without any blemishes or defects unto God, your worship would indicate that God is worthy and means a lot to you, but if you offered an animal with blemishes and defects, your worship would indicate that God is worthless to you and means little to nothing to you. And the Pastor and People mentioned in this text dishonored and disrespected God by offering God animals that were diseased, blemished, and crippled! Do you see it? They offered up an offering unto God that was not truly sacrificial, and that translated to mean that God was worthless in their eyes. They could have given God their best, but they chose to give God their leftovers.

What they gave God was an offering, but not a sacrifice.

Now when it comes to us and our worship unto God, Jesus said that it is time for true worshippers to worship him in spirit and in truth! You see, false worshippers present unto God mere rituals and religion, without any genuine devotion. False worshippers offer God their lips but dare not offer God their life! But they that worship Him in spirit are driven by sincere reverence rather than ulterior motives, and they that worship Him in truth strive to align their daily choices and behaviors with His word rather than deceiving themselves by the profane acts of religiosity and hypocrisy!

Beloved, I said all that to say to you: God does not deserve our leftovers, but God demands, deserves, and desires our best! You see, worship unto God should not just be a general offering, but it should be a sacrifice, and the problem that needs to be addressed and corrected is that you may be giving God offerings, but not giving God sacrifice! You may be giving God the time that you have left after you worked a long day, went to the gym, watched Netflix, and ate dinner. You may be giving God the talent you have left after you have exhausted it all to your employer and your goals! You may be giving your money, but the real measure is, to what extent is it truly a sacrifice? The question you must ask and answer for yourself is, are you truly giving sacrifices unto God, or are you just giving offerings unto God? Now I don't want you to put a religious spin on this idea of worship that will make you think it is about quantity,



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because it is not about quantity, but it is about quality. The poor widow noted in Mark 12 offered unto God two very small copper coins which is worth less than a penny, while many rich people threw in large amounts of money, but Jesus said the poor widow put more in the treasury than the others, because they only gave an offering, while she gave a sacrifice! Ladies and gentlemen, it is not about quantity, it is about quality! Don't give God your leftovers but give God your best! Don't give God the rest but give God the best! Don't give God an offering but give God a sacrifice!

2. *GIVE GOD YOUR BEST, AND NOTHING LESS.*

When you do not give God your best, it is not only dissatisfying to God, but it is also detrimental to you. When you do not give God your best, one of the side effects is a sense of dullness. If you are not offering your best to God, worship can lose its vibrancy and become dull for you. If you are not offering your best to God, praise may lose its vibrancy and become dull for you. If you are not offering your best in service to God, serving may lose its fulfillment and become dull for you. When you don't dedicate your best to God, life's purpose may become dull for you.

When you withhold your best from God, giving can lose its joy and become dull for you. Failing to dedicate your best to God can lead to a dull and less fulfilling experience in

praise, giving, serving, and overall life. Life and Worship will be nothing more than a routine. Family, Give God your best and nothing less. Now I want to shed light on one more thing from the Malachi passage. The intriguing aspect of God's indictment against the priests in the passage lies in the fact that, while the people were bringing blind, crippled, and diseased animals for their sacrificial worship, it was the priests who permitted and normalized this practice. Their normalization of such practices, including placing these subpar offerings on the altar on behalf of the people, drew God's disapproval! The priests were entrusted with the responsibility of teaching the people God's covenant, yet they permitted the offering of unacceptable animals to God. They allowed the people to present whatever they wanted, disregarding God's standard of acceptability. So, you know what God ended up doing in addition to sending them a word of correction and leading them to repentance? God couldn't get the Pastors to preach the truth and he couldn't get the people to live the truth, so God sent this son, and God's son became a high priest to teach people the truth and offer sacrifices on behalf of the people, but he also figuratively became a lamb without blemish or defect and literally sacrificed his life so that we the people would have an acceptable offering to give to God.

As you can see, God gave us God's best! The Bible says it like this: For God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten



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son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life! Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, I admonish you, brothers and sisters, I implore you, brother and sisters, in view of God's mercy, offer your entire selves, as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, which is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1).

QUOTES BY STEPHEN HERROD

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"God has guidelines for how we are to worship him."

"Just because it is an offering does not mean it is a sacrifice."

"God does not deserve our leftovers, but God demands, deserves, and desires our best."

"Worship unto God should not just be a general offering, but it should be a sacrifice, and the problem that needs to be addressed and corrected is that you may be giving God offerings, but not giving God sacrifice."

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"When you don't dedicate your best to God, life's purpose may become dull for you. When you withhold your best from God, giving can lose its joy and become dull for you."

"Failing to dedicate your best to God can lead to a dull and less fulfilling experience in praise, giving, serving, and overall life."