



Lesson 5 March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Leading Justly

Study Scripture – Malachi 2:1-9; 3:5-6

Background Scripture – Deuteronomy 17:8-13 & Malachi 2-3

### Key Verse:

*"If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of host, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart."*

**Malachi 2:2**

### INTRODUCTION

We are examining the responsibilities that we have been given by a heavenly Father who is faithful and who has gone to great lengths to make the world beautiful for us and has given us certain extremely important responsibilities.

We are reminded in this Lesson that the Lord God never changes and so His promises to us will be fulfilled. God has told us in His word what He expects us to do and since He is so kind and gracious and understanding, He has told us that He will give us the ability that will enable us to do what He requires. God wants us to do activities that will honour His name. We do that when we love God and love other human beings. The things that we do will make others realize the beauty and kindness of God and lead them to begin to come to God.

A prophet, a special messenger of God named Malachi had to point out to one group of leaders in the nation of Israel that they were not doing what they were supposed to do, and because of this neglect they would suffer terribly.

God expects all of us He has chosen and made his children to respond to Him and obey His commandments and follow the rules that He has established for if we do as He has commanded, we will be blessed and live happy and safe lives.

So that we would understand the situation in which we live and how God is good to us let us look at this illustration or case. This is really a case that represents our position with God.

Suppose that there is a young boy or girl that desperately wants to play soccer. They loved the game and they know that if they are good at it and they are given the opportunity to perform in front of large crowds and become popular they will earn a great deal of money and their life will be good.

But let us now suppose that this young boy or girl is really not good enough to get picked to play in the big game.

The young boy or girl are not good enough to be a star but they have a brother who is captain of a big soccer team and because he loves them and wants them to succeed in life he arranges to have his younger brother or sister to play and have a chance at success. He makes a great effort to train them and give them all the help they could ever need so that they will develop and become stars.

He does this not because they are the best players, but simply because he loves them. He wants them to have a chance to grow and be successful.

So how do you think the younger brother or sister should respond to the loving-kindness of their big brother? You would expect that the young boy or girl would play their best because of their brother's loving choice. He wants the best for them. So consider carefully how should they respond?

The young brother and sister would know that their brother has a purpose for them and that is why he put them on the team and so you would expect that they would do everything that they could, practice, train every day and get their minds ready to fulfill that purpose of becoming successful.

That is exactly the position that we are in with respect to God. God loves us. But if our heart ever becomes indifferent to God's love and the success that He wants us to achieve we should stop and consider and wonder that He has chosen us and put us in His family and that He has a purpose for us.

God has a great and beautiful plan and in this plan our job is to do loving things for others which will glorify His name among all the people that we meet.

But in our Lesson the prophet Malachi God said that God told him there were people put in special positions and given the responsibility to teach the people in the nation, to offer sacrifices for them, to ask God to grant them special divine favours when they were in difficulty. They were also to teach the people the law of God. So the prophet named Malachi told them of their job description, namely, "For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge". Also he said "The law of truth was in his mouth".

But the priest did not do a good job and so they failed miserably. God warned them that if they failed instead of Him blessing them they would be out of favour with God and their suffering would be massive. God would not help them when they were in difficulty and their enemies would make their life a living hell.

This is important for us because we are told that when Jesus came, died on the Cross and was Resurrected and Returned to Heaven all those that believed in Jesus were given special gifts.



Every believer in Jesus is given one or more gifts so that they could serve and minister to other people who belong to Jesus. This is a great responsibility. God made sure that He provided every one of the people that believe in Him to have supernatural abilities (these abilities were much different from and greater than natural talents and abilities) so that they could do the work that God wanted them to do. There are probably over 30 of these different gifts that are listed in the Bible.

But in order to use these gifts we are told that we have to be godly and live before God in awe or very great respect, understanding that He is the one that made us and the entire world. He is a God of great love and Kindness. He was always be faithful and keep His promises. He will always be merciful. He will never forsake His people but will always be there for them. As a result of this when we receive those supernatural gifts which had been given they come to us with great responsibilities.

We must know where our heart belongs. We should never have our attention turn away from God. We must always be sensitive and never get into the situation where we think our relationship with God is good but if someone asks God about the relationship, He has with us He will say that it is lousy.

The prophet Malachi warned us that it is easy to do certain things in church every week and we think that shows that we have a good relationship with God. But our worship can become so-so or routine and does not reflect a real love for God.

God does not like us to slip away from doing what we are supposed to be doing. He warns us that He does not change, and He was good to the people who lived a long time ago and He will be good to us today.

But he expects us to love Him and to love other people and to show that by also doing what He has told us to do. He reminds us that the only reason why He does not destroy us when we are very disobedient is because He loves us and has made great promises to us. He will be faithful.

So God has given us a powerful warning. His love is powerful. His help that is available to us is powerful.

So let us act justly and when we are in a position to lead others, we must lead them with justice and fairness.

If we do with these things and keep them in our hearts, we cannot go wrong!

