

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study

Date: May 28, 2017

Malachi 2:10-16

1. What is God talking about in verses 2:10-16?
 - a. Well, he says that Judah has been unfaithful by marrying women who worship foreign gods (vs 11).
 - b. He says that you can't compromise by doing things that God has told you not to and then bring an offering (or come to worship) and expect it to be ok. He doesn't accept those offerings (vs 12-13).
 - c. He is talking about unfaithfulness in the marriage covenant (vs 14).
 - d. It sounds like he is talking about marriage and divorce...he says that the man who hates and divorces his wife does violence to the one he should protect (vs 16).
 - e. I'm not sure he is talking about marriage at all. Wasn't he just talking about Israel's unfaithfulness to Him?
 - f. Perhaps God wants faithfulness in all of our relationships...first to him, then to others.

2. Is it possible that God would not accept the offerings of his people if they are living in sin?
 - a. No, a loving God would never do that.
 - b. Psalm 24:3-6, 66:18, Isaiah 59:1-2, Jeremiah 14:10-12, John 9:30-33 all talk about God's response to the prayers of those who are rebellious.
 - c. God is not interested in their sacrifices when they are empty and don't come out of a heart devoted to God (see Genesis 4:1-7, 1 Samuel 15:22, and Matthew 5:23-24).
 - d. God is more concerned with our covenant relationship with Him than he is about our sacrifice, our songs, our religious trappings, our empty prayers and anything else that we do to look religious or try to convince him that he should do something for us. He wants us to devote ourselves to Him and then he will begin to address the rest.

3. Why, in this case, was God unhappy with Israel?
 - a. They had been unfaithful to the wife of their marriage covenant.
 - b. They had been unfaithful to Him.
 - c. I'm not really sure.

4. Does God care about our relationships with people on Earth? Yes_____ No_____ Give scriptural evidence. _____

5. Have you been faithful to your covenant with God? _____

6. Have you been faithful to your covenants with people and valued your relationships with people? Yes_____ No_____ What could you do to change this? _____

