

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE:	How to Keep the Wonder in Your Worship
SERMON REFERENCE:	Malachi 1:6-14
LWF SERMON NUMBER:	#2257

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) One of the worst things in this world is half-hearted worship.
- b) Malachi 1:6-14
 - i) Verse 13 speaks of weariness in worship.
 - (1) What happens when the joy, the wonder and the enthusiasm go out of worship?
 - ii) He is speaking in verse 6 to a priest.
 - (1) We are priests.
 - (a) 1 Peter 2:9
 - (2) We are also kings, and we're to offer the Lord holy sacrifices, day-by-day, with enthusiasm, not weariness.
 - (a) The word "enthusiasm" means "in God" or "God in you."
 - (b) We can grow weary in the work, but we don't have to be weary of the work.
 - (i) Serving the Lord Jesus gets sweeter every day.
- c) Today's message will focus on three ways to keep the wonder in our worship.

2) RECOGNIZE THE NATURE OF GOD (MALACHI 1:6)

- a) God is our Father, and we are His children.
 - i) Fathers are to be honored.
 - (1) Malachi 1:6
 - ii) The word "honor" comes from a word which means "weight, giving weight to."
 - (1) It means to take someone seriously.
 - (a) Are you serious about your worship?
 - iii) Revelation 3:15-16
 - (1) A person who is against Christ at least has enough respect for Him to be against Him.
 - (2) Someone who is lukewarm says, "I believe. I'm just not excited about it."
 - iv) We sometimes go to church and yawn in the face of God.
 - (1) God is our Father, and He deserves to be honored.
 - v) Matthew 6:9
- b) God is a Master.
 - i) Malachi 1:6
 - (1) God is our Master, and He deserves fear.
 - (2) The word for "servant" here is the word "bond slave."
 - (a) It refers to someone who was bought in the marketplace.
 - (i) We were slaves of sin, and we've been bought by the Lord Jesus.
 - 1. We have become His slaves.
 - ii) All true religion is built on fear, but not a filthy fear.
 - (1) Psalm 19:9
 - (2) This fear is not a dread, not a cringing horror of God.
 - (3) Exodus 20:20

- (a) There is one fear that removes all other fears.
 - iii) The fear of God is love on its knees.
 - (1) It is a reverence for God.
 - (a) This does not mean that we're to be quiet in our worship.
 - (i) Yes, there are quiet times in the Bible.
 - 1. Psalm 46:10
 - (ii) But in the Bible, there are also drums, cymbals, leaping, dancing, and shouting unto the Lord.
 - 1. This does not mean that we're irreverent, but that we're so full of joy that we can't be still and quiet.
- 3) REVERENCE THE NAME OF GOD (MALACHI 1:6-13)
 - a) Malachi 1:6, 11-13
 - b) We can despise God's name by half-hearted worship.
 - c) Malachi 1:6-8
 - i) In that day, they would offer animal sacrifices.
 - ii) In this passage, they were bringing and offering animals to the Lord (in a love offering) that were crippled, lame, blind, animals that had blemishes, and even some that had died in the field.
 - (1) The Bible is absolutely against this.
 - (a) Leviticus 22:17-24
 - (2) These offerings were required to be perfect because every one of them was a picture of the Lord Jesus.
 - (3) 1 Peter 1:18-19
 - (a) The Lord Jesus was the perfect offering.
 - d) Malachi 1:8
 - i) God throws a challenge to them by asking if they would give the same offering to the governor.
 - (1) The governor would not accept that offering.
 - (2) The people would give their best if the governor, king or prince might visit.
 - ii) Do we give God less than we give to the government?
 - (1) How many people would tell the IRS that they had decided not to pay their taxes this year because they'd had some hard times lately?
 - (2) How many people decide not to give their tithe until things get better?
 - iii) How often do we eat the cake and give God the crumbs?
 - (1) That's what the people in this chapter of Malachi were doing.
 - (a) They were not offering their best to Jesus.
 - iv) God deserves the best of what we have, not the left overs.
 - e) Malachi 1:13
 - i) God said that they were giving Him things that they didn't really want anyway.
 - (1) Exodus 22:31

- (a) Some people are giving God dog food; they are saying, “It’s not fit for us. We’ll give it to God.”
- f) Why was their worship a weariness?
 - i) Because they were offering to God half-hearted, unworthy sacrifices.
 - (1) When we bring our gift to God, if it means little to us, then it will mean little to Him.
 - (2) Give your best to the Master.
- g) 2 Samuel 24:20-25
 - i) David wanted a place to put the Ark of the Covenant.
 - ii) A man named Araunah had a piece of property that David thought would be a great place to put the Ark of the Lord.
 - (1) Later on, it became the Temple Mount.
 - iii) David wanted to make a sacrifice to the Lord.
 - (1) There was a plague in the land, and David wanted the plague stopped.
 - iv) Araunah offered to give David his oxen and wood and instruments for plowing for the sacrifice.
 - v) But David refused Araunah’s offer; he refused to offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing.
 - (1) Some of our giving makes no difference at all in our lifestyle.
 - (a) God forbid that we should offer to the Lord that which cost us nothing.
- h) God’s name can be defiled by our sacrifice and by our service.
- i) Malachi 1:11-13
 - i) God says that they profaned His name.
 - (1) Profanity is when we use the name of God and don’t mean it.
 - (a) When we’re not enthused.
 - (b) When we stand in church and sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus” and don’t even think about what we’re singing.
 - (2) The worst profanity happens in the house of God.
 - ii) They had profaned His name by half-hearted worship.
- j) It’s an insult to God when we sit in church wondering when the service will be over.
 - i) And, yet, we get excited when a ballgame goes into overtime.
 - ii) We’re in business for the King, and we need to keep the wonder in worship.
- k) God’s name is not to be defiled; it’s to be declared.
 - i) Malachi 1:11-12
- l) The greatest name is Jesus.
 - i) Every attribute and quality of God is summed up and magnified in the name of Jesus.
 - (1) Philippians 2:9
 - ii) There is no other name that takes precedent over the name of Jesus.
 - (1) We ought to honor the name of Jesus Christ.
 - iii) There is salvation in His name.

- (1) Acts 4:12
 - iv) There is worship in that name.
 - (1) Matthew 18:20
 - v) There is prayer in that name.
 - (1) John 15:16
 - m) We need to honor the name of God and give reverence to His name.
- 4) RESPECT THE NOBILITY OF GOD (MALACHI 1:14)
- a) Malachi 1:14
 - i) The deceiver in this passage has a worthy offering, but he makes a vow and a promise and offers some unworthy thing.
 - ii) This passage also speaks of the nobility of God; God is a King.
 - b) We should be excited when we meet to worship because Jesus is there in our midst every Sunday.
 - i) He is the King.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) God is Father, Master and King.
 - i) As His children, God deserves our love.
 - ii) As servants, He deserves our labor.
 - iii) As subjects, He deserves our loyalty.
 - b) Do you know God as Father? Is He your Master?
 - c) Do you know Jesus Christ as your King?
 - i) Do you know Jesus as Lord and Savior?
 - d) If you don't have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, you can today. Today, you can know God as your Father.
 - e) Pray and ask Jesus to come into your life.
 - f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16