

“Faith & Marriage” (part 2)

Preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 11/19/23.

Sermon Series: Malachi: Return to the Lord Main Passage: Malachi 2:13-16

Opened with a discussion about the Book of **Malachi**.

- Malachi is a conversation between God and Israel that centers around **six** disputes/questions. God makes a claim, and the people question God's claim.

1) 1st dispute was over God's **love** for them.

2) 2nd dispute was over the fact they failed to show God any **honor**.

- The **Priest** were primarily to blame for this

3) The 3rd dispute was over God said they had defiled their **covenant** with Him by being faithless in their earthly and heavenly relationships.

- Focus on faith & **marriage** (interfaith marriage and divorce).

Context: Basic Biblical understanding of **Divorce**.

- God allowed Moses to put Divorce into the Law, but people debated what “**indecent**” meant. (ref: Deut. 24:1)

- Jesus bypassed Moses and went to **creation** in order to explain marriage and divorce. **Divorce** happens because of sin (we live in a fallen/broken world). (ref: Mark 10:6-8)

- **God** hates all sin, not just divorce. In fact, all of us are guilty of sin that God **hates** and/or detest. (ref: Malachi 2:16; Proverbs 6:16-19)

- Divorce is not always a **sin**. Even **God** divorced Israel (ref: Isa. 50:1; Jer. 3:8)

- There are two clear allowances given for **divorce**: sexual immorality & abandonment. (ref: Mat. 19:8-9; 1 Cor. 7:15)

- When it comes to extreme cases like abuse, we need to err on the side of **love**, compassion, and commonsense. The Bible does not address every situation and there are times love and compassion trumps **Law**. (exp: Sabbath Law: mule in hole & David's men eating show bread) The whole of the Law is summed up in **love**: God & People. (ref: Matt. 22:37-39; Gal. 5:14)

1) This particular divorce in Malachi we see that the husbands were **unrepentant**.

- These men divorced their first wives, married unbelievers, and had the audacity to think they were in good **standing** with God who no longer accepted their worship.

- Their faithlessness towards **God** and other believers were evident in their sins of divorce, interfaith marriage, and the mistreatment of their first wives.

- The mistreatment of others, in particular our **spouses**, will still hinder our relationship with God. (ref: 1 Peter 3:7)

- **Divorce** is not an unpardonable sin. If you humble yourself and repent, He will forgive! (ref: 1 John 1:9)

2) This particular divorce in Malachi broke a **covenant**.

- God was a **witness** to their marriage and still is to ours today.

- God still takes **vows** serious today. Our yes is to be yes...

3) This particular divorce in Malachi had an effect on the **children**.

- Parents are not the only ones who suffer during a **divorce**, but the children do as well

- The goal and expectations of all **parents**, divorced or not, is that their children grow up and profess faith in Jesus Christ.

In closing,

- Today we can move past the sins and failures of the past and be born again through repentance and faith in **Jesus** who is faithful to forgive and wash clean.