

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE
WHERE IS YOUR HEART IN WORSHIP ?

Malachi 1:6-14

1. What priests must give to God

In His Law, God commanded worshipers to bring for sacrifice animals without blemish – perfect sacrifices, *the best* of their flocks & herds (Leviticus 22:18-20, Deuteronomy 17:1, etc.)

Why? - God deserves **the best** we can give.

- AND only a **perfect sacrifice** can atone for sin.

But this is NOT what the people were bringing to the Lord.

They were giving God the animals they did not want – cripples, sick. And this is why the Lord was so displeased with the priests of Judah.

They should **lead** the people in worship that pleases God.

But the priests could not be bothered to insist on the best for God.

The people & the priests were *going through the motions*;
their hearts were not in it.

Their heart-attitude: “*What a weariness this is’ and you snort at it*” (13).

God’s response: “*Oh that someone would shut the doors to the temple I will not accept an offering from your hand.*” (10)

What is in **your heart** when you come to worship?

Will God accept what you bring? Will He accept you?

2. What Christ our great high priest gave to God

Good news! Those spotless lambs all pointed forward to **The LAMB** – Jesus the Lamb of God (Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29):

- the ONE sacrifice that truly atones & takes away the guilt of sin,

- the Lamb who is truly spotless & undefiled (1 Pet.1:19, Heb.7:26ff).

Jesus the Messiah – the true & final priest came to offer to God the perfect & final sacrifice for sin: **Himself** on the cross.

This is why it is so important that He was sin-less.

Risen from the dead, He continues as our Great High Priest –

ever interceding for His redeemed people at His Father’s right hand (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:25).

3. What we, priests in Christ, should bring to God in worship

Malachi foresaw our day (v.11): *From the rising of the sun to its setting My Name will be great among the nations ...*

Since Pentecost God has been making His great name known to the ends of the earth – even to us.

AND **ALL** who believe in Christ are now God’s priests in Christ.

We offer no atoning sacrifices, only thank offerings.

What should we bring? Not animals, of course – but thanks & praise.

HOW? Our **very best** & from **our hearts**.

Can we offer perfect worship? No. God accepts what we offer in Christ.

Can we offer our best & sincerely? Yes, with the Spirit’s help.

WHOM do we worship? “*I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts*” –

A great Father (1 Pet.1:17), a great Savior –

focus **there** & give Him your heart!