



Series: The Minor Prophets

**Lesson: 61. Malachi, pt. 2 – Broken
Covenants, Bitter Justice**

Passage: Mal. 2:10–3:6

- **Israel Broke the Covenant with Their _____ . (2:10–12)**
 - Israel was one _____ biologically and in God, so ‘dealing treacherously to God and/or each other is especially offensive.

 - *Bagad* –

 - The ‘covenant of their fathers’ = the Old Covenant.

 - Issue #1: marrying _____ wives
 - Intermarriage was forbidden because of its tendency to lead people away from God.

Deut. 7:3–4 – Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. ⁴For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods; then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you and He will quickly destroy you. (cf. Ex. 34:11–16; Josh. 22:12–13)

- It was an issue from the time of Solomon all the way up to Malachi's day.

Neh. 13:26–27 – “Did not Solomon king of Israel sin regarding these things? Yet among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel; nevertheless the foreign women caused even him to sin. ²⁷Do we then hear about you that you have committed all this great evil by acting unfaithfully against our God by marrying foreign women?”

- It's the same reason Christians should be careful about their closest relationships, especially marriage.

2 Cor. 6:14–16 – Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

- Those who practice it are at risk of being ‘_____.’
 - This was the Old Covenant punishment for ‘abominations’ and ‘profaning the sanctuary’ (cf. Lev. 18:29; 20:3).

- **Israel Broke the Covenant with Their _____ . (2:13–16).**
 - God does not recognize worship from those practicing egregious sin (cf. 1 Pet. 3:7).
 - Issue #2: _____
 - Marriage is meant to be a true _____.

*Matt. 19:3–9 – Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?”⁴ And He answered and said, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female,⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’?⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”⁷ They *said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?”⁸ He *said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”*

- Divorce goes against God’s design for marriage and should not be the norm.
- Here, those practicing it are told to cut it out or risk punishment as covenant-breakers.

- **Breaking Covenants Requires _____ . (2:17–3:6).**
 - Israelites question whether God cares justice, so God responds by showing the _____ He is bringing.
 - The first messenger is _____
(cf. Is. 40:3; Matt. 11:10; John 1:23).
 - The second messenger is _____, but there is a terrible irony to sinners eager for His coming.

*Amos 5:18–20 – Alas, you who are longing for the day of the Lord,
For what purpose will the day of the Lord be to you?*

It will be darkness and not light;

¹⁹As when a man flees from a lion

And a bear meets him,

Or goes home, leans his hand against the wall

And a snake bites him.

*²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness instead of light,
Even gloom with no brightness in it?*

- The ‘cleansing’ process described here is the negative side to what we saw in Zechariah.

*Zech. 13:9 – “And I will bring the third part through the fire,
Refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them;
I will say, ‘They are My people,’
And they will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”*

- Purification begins with the Levites to make the nation’s offerings satisfying to God again.
 - Leadership has to be reformed in order for the people to be reformed.

- Purifying the nation involves judging persistent sin.
 - Those frustrated with injustice are often very selective.

- This judgment is necessary because God doesn’t _____,
even though people do.
 - This is how He can be both just and covenant-keeping.

What Do We Do with This Text?

1. We need to be wary of anything that _____ us from our relationship with God.

Jas. 4:4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2. Hold to a biblical view of _____.

3. Be wary of our own _____ when it comes to justice.

Blanks: God, family, foreign, cut off, Wives, divorce, covenant, Justice, judgment, John the Baptist, Christ, change, distracts, marriage, blind spots