

Additional Notes:

SERIES: Exile & Return

SERMON 11: "Avoiding Worship that Insults God"

TEXT: Malachi 1:6-14; 3:7-12

DATE: March 10/11, 2018

Our worship can _____ God.

MALACHI 1:6-14

How do you avoid worship that insults God? **Give to God from your _____.**

MALACHI 3:7-12

Give to God from your _____ and _____ him for the rest.

Family Discussion Questions:

1. What are some areas of life in which our family struggles to give God our best?
2. How does this passage relate to Jesus' words about our hearts being where our treasure is?
3. Where would you say our family's treasure lies?

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Consider someone whose success you admire, an athlete, musician, or business person whose abilities you appreciate. How would you describe that person?

If you focused on a professional athlete in the last question, you might have responded with words like "excellent," "devoted," "committed," and "passionate." Now, instead of describing an athlete or business person, what if we asked for adjectives describing your devotion to and worship of the Lord. Would you give the same adjectives in order to describe your worship?

3. Why do we expect "secular" success to require hard work, significant amounts of time, sacrifice, and dedication, but tend to think "spiritual" success comes about more passively and abruptly?

4. Read Malachi 1:6-14. Scripture encourages disciples of Christ to offer up five things to God: our bodies (Romans 12:1-2), our finances (Philippians 4:14-18), our praise (Hebrews 13:15), our works (Hebrews 13:16), and our witness (Romans 15:16). In what ways does our worship of God through these five "sacrifices" display God's greatness?

5. Read Malachi 3:7-12. How does this passage relate to Jesus' teaching about our hearts being where our treasure is (Matthew 6:19-21)?

6. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Malachi prophesied about a messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah to bring God's kingdom. Centuries later, John the Baptist arrived as the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus. The last word of the Old Testament is "curse," a reminder of the consequence of our sin. But in the New Testament, one of the first words we hear from Jesus is "blessing."
The One who bears our curse is the One who brings us blessing.

THEOLOGICAL THEME

True worship magnifies God's great worth and brings blessing to the worshiper.