

JESUS IS LORD: A LESSON FROM MALACHI**INTRODUCTION.**

- A. Scripture text: **Malachi 2:4-7**.
- B. I hope this has been a very rewarding week for you at ICC. I hope you are a better person for being here this week.
- C. If you haven't already guessed it, the theme for the week is, "Jesus Is Lord."
- D. Tonight we will continue in that theme with a look at man's response to God's gift (Jn. 3:16).

I. SCOPE OF THE LESSON.

- A. Malachi wrote his words to Israel, but they are for our instruction today (Rom. 15:4).
- B. I want to focus in on 3 main things from the book of Malachi:
 - 1. We give 2nd best to God.
 - 2. We play favorites in our lives.
 - 3. We rob God what is due Him.

II. GOD LOVES US, WE GIVE SECOND BEST.

- A. God deserves respect that same as a father, or master does (Mal. 1:6).
- B. But look at what the priests were doing to honor that respect (Mal. 1:7-10)!
- C. Christians are priests today, and can be compared to these priests (1Pet. 2:9).
- D. Ask yourself, has God ever given His second best?
 - 1. In His word, the Bible?
 - 2. In His Son, Jesus Christ?
 - 3. In the church?
 - 4. In the precious blood of Jesus?
- E. We also demand the best in our lives:
 - 1. Designer jeans.
 - 2. Nikes.
 - 3. In stereos and radios.
 - 4. In clothes, it must be an alligator!
- F. But too many times we are like the priests in Malachi and give second best to God!
 - 1. When benevolent needs arise to we give our very best?
 - 2. Hallmark, boasts of sending their cards when you want to send the very best, do we?
 - 3. Romans 12:1,2.
 - 4. Jobs and money back to Him.
- G. Scripture text: Malachi 1:14.

III. OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND PLAYING FAVORITES.

- A. Scripture text: Malachi 2:4-7.
- B. Show the qualities of a good priest.
- C. We must spread the word today, pseudo-parable of Jesus and the angle.
- D. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth. If we don't defend it, the truth will not be preached (1Tim. 3:15).
- E. You may be the only Bible that some people read (2Cor. 2:14-16).
- F. But look at Malachi's condemnation (Mal. 2:8-10).
- G. We need not shirk our responsibility, and don't play favorites! Not just part of the Bible, all of it; not just some people; all of them.

IV. ROBBING GOD OF WHAT IS DUE HIM.

- A. Scripture text: Malachi 3:7-9.
- B. The difference between stealing and robbing:
 - 1. Stealing is taking what is not yours.
 - 2. Robbery is taking something due another.
- C. This makes robbery a worse offense than stealing!
- D. We rob God when we do not give Him what is due Him.
 - 1. Tithes were due God in the OT.
 - 2. Free will contributions are due God today.
- E. If we receive the blessing of a summer job, God is due contributions as we prosper.

V. THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS MENTIONED.

- A. The problems that we have and that Malachi pointed out:
 - 1. We as priests are giving only second best to God.
 - 2. we are shirking our responsibility to the word and showing favoritism.
 - 3. We are robbing God what is due Him.
- B. The solution is found in Malachi 3:10.
- C. When we make Jesus the Lord of our life we will fulfill verse 10.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Even though Malachi 4:1-3 was written to the Jews to prepare for the coming of Christ, these words are still true today.
- B. The unrighteous will be destroyed, and the righteous will triumph in Christ.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.