THE CORRUPT PRIESTS

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:

The Corrupt Priests

Bible Text: Malachi 2:1–9

Prayer

Father, we are here again at Your table. Feed us and equip us with more revelation, Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

You are all welcome in Jesus Christ's name. Today, we have a very sensitive study before us, which is the cry of the Spirit to us. Let us sit humbly before the Lord as He speaks directly into our hearts and helps us yield to His will.

Study

In this chapter of the Scriptures, the Lord was addressing the corrupt priests of the land of Israel. Through the prophet Book of Malachi, He spoke about the covenant of life and peace which He made with Levi. Among the children of Israel, the Lord had chosen a particular tribe for service in His vineyard, and from that tribe He chose a family to be priests—the family of Aaron.

But in the long run, this family became corrupt, and they broke the covenant the Lord made with them. God gave them commandments so that His covenant with them might continue and so that they might fear Him, but they chose to act against it, and God was displeased with them. God spoke about how Levi stood before Him and maintained four spectacular qualities. He mentioned four things that upheld His covenant with Levi, stating that the purpose of His covenant with the Levites was to bring life and peace, and He gave them that in return. Levi greatly revered Him and stood in awe of His name.

But now these priests were corrupt and were not like Levi, in whom:

1. *Whose mouth was the law of truth*.

The earlier Levites who feared the Lord passed on to the people the truth of the instructions they received from God. It was in this legacy that the new set of priests ought to have walked, but they did not. God has ways He has laid down for His worship, which, if not followed, can bring curses upon the priests. Today, many modern church leaders fit into what happened during the time of these corrupt priests. Just as the earlier descendants of the Levites feared the Lord and passed the law of truth to the people—which was later neglected by the latter priests—in the same way certain doctrinal truths and standards for the church laid down by the early apostles are now forgotten or misunderstood by today's ministers. God is not pleased.

Teachings on holiness are now turned upside down and watered down, so that those who claim to teach and know it are no longer different from the world. True instruction in righteousness has departed from the fold because of leaders who would not speak and teach the law of truth. **2 Timothy 3:16** "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."But the more today's preachers undo the Word, the less people live in righteousness, because the law of truth has departed from them. This was not the case with Levi. God attested to his conduct as pleasing before Him, unlike what we see today.

2. *On whose lips injustice was not found*.

God Himself said Levi did not lie or cheat. These men were committed to God. They put falsehood far from them and never collected what was not theirs. But the corrupt priests were not so. They did the contrary. Many preachers have taken after these

corrupt priests. They tell lies, live in lies, and cheat. It has now become the order of the day. Some lie on the pulpit just to impress their followers. Some fabricate encounters and revelations just to remain relevant before men, even when the Lord is displeased. Men who should be examples of good conduct sometimes live double lives. They may show honor to the rich at the expense of the poor. They can no longer make righteous judgments because they have collected gifts. **Proverbs 17:23** "A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment."This is the lifestyle of many today, which the Lord is lamenting about.

3. *They walked with God in peace and equity.*

The Levites walked with God in peace. This implies friendliness born out of submission and obedience. They had peace with God because they were faithful. They lived upright and righteous lives, pleasing in the sight of God. They did not do this for men's approval but because they feared God. But the corrupt priests were not so. They lived questionable lives. They did not care about settling accounts with God and were carried away in unrighteousness. When a man is filled with his own ways, he removes what God thinks from the equation. Some live double-sided lives—terrors at home but angels in the pulpit. Some do not even hide their unrighteousness and teach others to become worse. This was not the character and way of life of the early apostles who passed this baton down. Because of the lust and cares of this world, the story has changed.

4. *Levi turned many away from iniquity.*

God says he turned many away from sinful lifestyles, not just a few. But the latter priests, who became corrupt, had no time for such matters, as the state of souls did not concern them. God's joy is to see sinners repent because He is in the business of souls.

The early apostles knew this and devoted themselves fully to it. But today, what many are concerned about is not soul-winning, but church membership—how to gather people together without minding their spiritual state. If God should open the eyes of some leaders to see those they call members, they might discover that many are not saved. They are just there to increase numbers.

It is better to pastor ten people who are heaven's candidates than one thousand who are on their way to destruction. Those whom God recognizes are those who turn people away from wickedness, not merely those who gather crowds without considering whether their ways are right. **Malachi 2:8** "But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the Lord of hosts." They violated His covenant. O man of God, are you not one of those guilty of the Lord's charges? Are you sure you have not left God's path? Have you been interpreting the Scriptures according to the flesh, leading others to stumble and making them comfortable in sin?

Today, God is saying: check your ways and repent. **Malachi 2:1–2** "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart." Have your blessings been cursed? Are you guilty as charged? This is a call to repentance. Remember where you have fallen. Amend your ways before God. Stop living under God's curse. You cannot endure or escape it.

Malachi 2:9 "So I have also made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality [to people] in [your administration of] the law."Humble yourself before God, and He will have mercy on you.

Learn from David, and do not take after Saul. God is ever true, even if every man is a liar.

We have come to the end of today’s teaching. Have a lovely day ahead

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp **+2347067511039** and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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