

Bible Study
09/09/2020

Leading Justly

Malachi 2:1-9; 3:5-6

Most of our lives are not lived in crisis – which is a good thing. Not many of us would be able to sustain a life of perpetual pain or loss or excitement or challenge daily. But crisis has this to say for it: In times of crisis everything absolutely everything, is important and significant. Life itself is on the line. No word is casual, no action marginal. And almost always, God and our relationship with God is on the front page.

The prophecy of Malachi is made to order for just such a condition. Malachi creates a crisis at a time when we are unaware of a crisis. He wakes us up to the crisis of God during the time when the only thing we are concerned with is us. He keeps us on our toes, listening for God, waiting in anticipation for God, ready to respond to God, who is always coming to us.

In four chapters, the book of Malachi is actually an anonymous collection of prophetic sayings, after the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem and before the future messenger from God, John the Baptize, who came centuries later. God uses Malachi's series of easy-to-follow questions and answers to expose the people mainly the priests underlying motives, their negative attitudes, and their selfish ways. The priest had become consumed with the outward appearances rather than the inward purity and submission to God.

Goals of this Session:

1. To understand the significance of justice for those in spiritual leadership.
2. To affirm the value of covenanted reverence of God for leaders.
3. To commit to practicing just and God-pleasing spiritual leadership.

Topics to discussed: Justice, covenant, integrity, leadership

- Warning! – Malachi 2:1-3
- The Covenant Continues – Malachi 2:4-9
- The People on Trial – Malachi 3:5-6