

Who's Getting Your Best?

Malachi 1:6-9

6. "A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty. "It is you, O priests, who show contempt for my name. "But you ask, `How have we shown contempt for your name?'

7. "You place defiled food on my altar. "But you ask, `How have we defiled you?' "By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible.

8. When you bring blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice crippled or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?" says the LORD Almighty.

9. "Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"--says the LORD Almighty.

"contempt" (Heb.- Baw-zaw') - "to despise, to consider something or someone less than or even worthless."

"Unfortunately many modern day Christians would just write it off as silly, legalistic and overboard. We live in a culture where even many of those who take on the name of Christ make Him low on the priority list... Everything else comes first and somehow God is supposed to be pleased with that. He is expected to be content with the leftovers!!! But as Kermit would say... `That's none of my business!'"

Is God getting our best?

Or do other things and other people get our best?

Do other things or other people get better sacrifices than God gets?

Do we value God or think highly enough of God to give Him our absolute best?

Our relationship to God can be looked at in two ways:

1. Children to Father
2. Servants to Master

If you don't truly love Him, the proof is that you'll do the absolute minimum to get by!

Luke 17:1-10

1. Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.
2. It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.
3. So watch yourselves. "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
4. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, `I repent,' forgive him."
5. The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
6. He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, `Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.
7. "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, `Come along now and sit down to eat'?
8. Would he not rather say, `Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?
9. Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?
10. So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, `We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

If you don't fear Him, you'll be tempted to use Him for your own ends!

II. Love God as our Father!

The highest motivation of all is love!

Matthew 22:37 - "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" Matthew 22:37

Heb. 12:4-11

4. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.
5. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
6. because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."
7. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

8. If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

9. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

10. Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

11. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

II. Fear God as master!

Remember... He gave you His absolute best when He gave us the blood of Jesus!