

RELATED SCRIPTURES

STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 10.05.25

Ezra 9:1–2 | 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 | Ephesians 5:22–33

SUMMARY

Malachi turns his attention from the priests to the people of Israel, encompassing the Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, including Jerusalem (v.11). “Faithless” occurs 5 times in this passage. We are accustomed hearing this as a synonym for “unbelief” as it is in the New Testament, such as “if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself” (2 Timothy 2:13). However, this “faithless” in the Old Testament comes from a different word meaning “deal treacherously” or “abandon, forsake, or betray.”

Malachi addresses two ways in which Israel has transgressed, under this theme of being faithless to, or betraying, one another. First, they intermarried with neighboring cultures (Ezra 9:2). This was not a concern about ethnicity, but rather that Judah brought in foreign gods through marriage. Second, they are upset that God does not accept their offerings. Malachi already addressed the issue of inappropriate offerings (Malachi 1:8,13-14), and now he addresses Israel’s inappropriate behavior through how they dishonor marriage.

In the first case, Malachi reminds Israel that they should not marry an unbeliever, just as Paul teaches that believers should “not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 2:14). Second, he reminds Israel of God’s intention for marriage as a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6). While Malachi is teaching about the importance of human relationships in marriage, this ultimately points forward to the marriage of Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:32).

GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Malachi 2:10-16.

In addition to marriage, what are some ways in which we may be “unequally yoked with unbelievers” in today’s world? How do we “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) without becoming unequally yoked?

What does it mean to “guard yourselves in your spirit,” as instructed in Malachi 2:15-16?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.