**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Keep the Wonder in Your Worship |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Malachi 1:6-14 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2257 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. One of the worst things in this world is half-hearted worship.
   2. Malachi 1:6-14
      1. Verse 13 speaks of weariness in worship.
         1. What happens when the joy, the wonder and the enthusiasm go out of worship?
      2. He is speaking in verse 6 to a priest.
         1. We are priests.
            1. 1 Peter 2:9
         2. We are also kings, and we’re to offer the Lord holy sacrifices, day-by-day, with enthusiasm, not weariness.
            1. The word “enthusiasm” means “in God” or “God in you.”
            2. We can grow weary in the work, but we don’t have to be weary of the work.

Serving the Lord Jesus gets sweeter every day.

* 1. Today’s message will focus on three ways to keep the wonder in our worship.

1. recognize the nature of god (Malachi 1:6)
   1. God is our Father, and we are His children.
      1. Fathers are to be honored.
         1. Malachi 1:6
      2. The word “honor” comes from a word which means “weight, giving weight to.”
         1. It means to take someone seriously.
            1. Are you serious about your worship?
      3. Revelation 3:15-16
         1. A person who is against Christ at least has enough respect for Him to be against Him.
         2. Someone who is lukewarm says, “I believe. I’m just not excited about it.”
      4. We sometimes go to church and yawn in the face of God.
         1. God is our Father, and He deserves to be honored.
      5. Matthew 6:9
   2. God is a Master.
      1. Malachi 1:6
         1. God is our Master, and He deserves fear.
         2. The word for “servant” here is the word “bond slave.”
            1. It refers to someone who was bought in the marketplace.

We were slaves of sin, and we’ve been bought by the Lord Jesus.

We have become His slaves.

* + 1. All true religion is built on fear, but not a filthy fear.
       1. Psalm 19:9
       2. This fear is not a dread, not a cringing horror of God.
       3. Exodus 20:20
          1. There is one fear that removes all other fears.
    2. The fear of God is love on its knees.
       1. It is a reverence for God.
          1. This does not mean that we’re to be quiet in our worship.

Yes, there are quiet times in the Bible.

Psalm 46:10

But in the Bible, there are also drums, cymbals, leaping, dancing, and shouting unto the Lord.

This does not mean that we’re irreverent, but that we’re so full of joy that we can’t be still and quiet.

1. reverence the name of god (malachi 1:6-13)
   1. Malachi 1:6, 11-13
   2. We can despise God’s name by half-hearted worship.
   3. Malachi 1:6-8
      1. In that day, they would offer animal sacrifices.
      2. In this passage, they were bringing and offering animals to the Lord (in a love offering) that were crippled, lame, blind, animals that had blemishes, and even some that had died in the field.
         1. The Bible is absolutely against this.
            1. Leviticus 22:17-24
         2. These offerings were required to be perfect because every one of them was a picture of the Lord Jesus.
         3. 1 Peter 1:18-19
            1. The Lord Jesus was the perfect offering.
   4. Malachi 1:8
      1. God throws a challenge to them by asking if they would give the same offering to the governor.
         1. The governor would not accept that offering.
         2. The people would give their best if the governor, king or prince might visit.
      2. Do we give God less than we give to the government?
         1. How many people would tell the IRS that they had decided not to pay their taxes this year because they’d had some hard times lately?
         2. How many people decide not to give their tithe until things get better?
      3. How often do we eat the cake and give God the crumbs?
         1. That’s what the people in this chapter of Malachi were doing.
            1. They were not offering their best to Jesus.
      4. God deserves the best of what we have, not the left overs.
   5. Malachi 1:13
      1. God said that they were giving Him things that they didn’t really want anyway.
         1. Exodus 22:31
            1. Some people are giving God dog food; they are saying, “It’s not fit for us. We’ll give it to God.”
   6. Why was their worship a weariness?
      1. Because they were offering to God half-hearted, unworthy sacrifices.
         1. When we bring our gift to God, if it means little to us, then it will mean little to Him.
         2. Give your best to the Master.
   7. 2 Samuel 24:20-25
      1. David wanted a place to put the Ark of the Covenant.
      2. A man named Araunah had a piece of property that David thought would be a great place to put the Ark of the Lord.
         1. Later on, it became the Temple Mount.
      3. David wanted to make a sacrifice to the Lord.
         1. There was a plague in the land, and David wanted the plague stopped.
      4. Araunah offered to give David his oxen and wood and instruments for plowing for the sacrifice.
      5. But David refused Araunauh’s offer; he refused to offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing.
         1. Some of our giving makes no difference at all in our lifestyle.
            1. God forbid that we should offer to the Lord that which cost us nothing.
   8. God’s name can be defiled by our sacrifice and by our service.
   9. Malachi 1:11-13
      1. God says that they profaned His name.
         1. Profanity is when we use the name of God and don’t mean it.
            1. When we’re not enthused.
            2. When we stand in church and sing “Oh, How I Love Jesus” and don’t even think about what we’re singing.
         2. The worst profanity happens in the house of God.
      2. They had profaned His name by half-hearted worship.
   10. It’s an insult to God when we sit in church wondering when the service will be over.
       1. And, yet, we get excited when a ballgame goes into overtime.
       2. We’re in business for the King, and we need to keep the wonder in worship.
   11. God’s name is not to be defiled; it’s to be declared.
       1. Malachi 1:11-12
   12. The greatest name is Jesus.
       1. Every attribute and quality of God is summed up and magnified in the name of Jesus.
          1. Philippians 2:9
       2. There is no other name that takes precedent over the name of Jesus.
          1. We ought to honor the name of Jesus Christ.
       3. There is salvation in His name.
          1. Acts 4:12
       4. There is worship in that name.
          1. Matthew 18:20
       5. There is prayer in that name.
          1. John 15:16
   13. We need to honor the name of God and give reverence to His name.
2. respect the nobility of god (malachi 1:14)
   1. Malachi 1:14
      1. The deceiver in this passage has a worthy offering, but he makes a vow and a promise and offers some unworthy thing.
      2. This passage also speaks of the nobility of God; God is a King.
   2. We should be excited when we meet to worship because Jesus is there in our midst every Sunday.
      1. He is the King.
3. CONCLUSION
   1. God is Father, Master and King.
      1. As His children, God deserves our love.
      2. As servants, He deserves our labor.
      3. As subjects, He deserves our loyalty.
   2. Do you know God as Father? Is He your Master?
   3. Do you know Jesus Christ as your King?
      1. Do you know Jesus as Lord and Savior?
   4. If you don’t have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, you can today. Today, you can know God as your Father.
   5. Pray and ask Jesus to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16