

MINISTRY OF MALACHI  
MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE  
(Malachi 2:1-17)

- I. Indicting the PRIESTS (Malachi 2:1-9)
  - A. The PENALTY they have incurred (2:1-4)
    - 1. Would not have been imposed if they had demonstrated SINCERE REVERENCE for His name as the “LORD of HOSTS”
    - 2. Would involve God’s CURSE upon them (cf. Deut. 27:15-26; 28:15-68; Num. 6:24-26)
      - a. Would include FAMINE by destruction of SEED
      - b. Included REJECTION of the priests PERSONALLY
      - c. Would not REVOKE God’s covenant with LEVI
  - B. The EXAMPLE they should have emulated (2:5-7)
    - 1. TURNED many from INIQUITY
    - 2. PRESERVED knowledge as “the MESSENGER of the LORD”
  - C. The JUSTICE of God’s JUDGMENT (2:8-9)
    - 1. They had CAUSED many to STUMBLE
    - 2. They showed FAVORITISM in performing their DUTIES
- II. Indicting the PEOPLE (Malachi 2:10-17)

- A. Their abominable MARRIAGES (2:10-12)
  - 1. They had “married the daughter of a FOREIGN GOD”
  - 2. They had profaned the BELOVED SANCTUARY of the LORD
  - 3. The guilty will be “CUT OFF” from Jacob’s community
  
- B. Their treacherous DIVORCES (2:13-16)
  - 1. They “BROKE FAITH” with their WIVES
  - 2. God will no longer ACCEPT their OFFERINGS
  - 3. God made marriage as a PERMANENT bonding of ONE man with ONE woman
  - 4. God declares, “I HATE divorce”
  - 5. God also HATES a husband’s MISTREATMENT of his wife
  
- C. Their wearisome PRESUMPTION (2:17)
  - 1. They declared that God DELIGHTS in EVILDOERS
  - 2. They cast DOUBT that God would ENFORCE JUSTICE

### III. Lessons

- A. Men and women stand EQUALLY before God as their CREATOR
- B. A Christian should NEVER marry an UNBELIEVER (2 Cor. 6:14-16)
- C. A marriage vow taken before God is SACRED and must not be VIOLATED
- D. We must never take God’s BLESSING for GRANTED