

# **Judgment and Hope: A study of Joel, Obadiah and Malachi**

## **Broken Relationships**

### **Malachi 2: 1-16**

#### **A. God's Warning to Ministers (Malachi 2:1-9)**

1. God expressed that he was extremely upset with the Priests.
2. What did the Priests do wrong?
  - They provided false instructions.
  - They were not in a right relationship with God
  - They lived a life of Sin.
3. Matthew 7:24-27
  - Both a wise man and a fool hear God's Truth.
  - Both have storms in their lives.
  - The difference is a wise man will apply God's truth to his life and fool will not live according to God's truth.
4. Causing others to Stumble
  - A priest will not experience the blessings for God, when they know God's truth, but tries to combine it with the wisdom of the world that actually ignores God.

Main Idea – Priests break their Covenant relationship with God, when they fail to teach God's truth.

#### **B. The Problem of Being Unfaithful (Malachi 2:10-16)**

Question to Judah v10– Why are you being unfaithful to the God who is your Father and who created you?

1. The Problem of Marrying Outside Your Faith
  - The history of Israel reveals how they continually would marry wives who worshiped foreign gods, even when they were warned not to do so when they entered the promised land.

- The history of Christians marrying outside of their faith reveals relationship struggles in the marriage.
2. The Problem of Divorce
    - V16 creates a struggle with interpretation. If God allows Divorce in other scripture, why does it say that God hates divorce. (some versions do not use this exact language.)
    - The tradition of “Putting away a wife,” vs. divorcing a wife.
    - Many issues can cause a marriage to experience Divorce.
    - Divorce is a Sin, however God is able to forgive you of divorce just like he forgives other sins.

### **C. Another Way to Interpret Malachi 2: 10-16**

- God is using the Marriage relationship to illustrate the covenant relationship between himself and his people.
- Marrying the daughters of foreign gods is symbolic of worshiping other gods and goddesses, therefore breaking the covenant relationship.
- Divorcing your spouse from your youth is actually a symbolic illustration of leaving your faith in God to follow other gods in your life.

### **Two Facts**

1. If you have broken relationships in your life, it will affect your relationship with God.
2. If you have a broken relationship with God, it will affect your other relationships in your life.