

03 - Malachi 2:10-16 – Breaking faith

How is your following of Jesus reflected in the way you treat others in relationships?

A complicated passage

Firstly ... the original language it was written in

Secondly ... it raises things God's people are doing wrong that we could easily misunderstand today.

Thirdly ... it has been misused and parts of it are often quoted out of context then universally applied.

Finally ... because it speaks directly into the lives of us as God's people.

Malachi so far

... accuse God of not really loving them

... the priests show contempt for his name.

God's covenant

... Gen 12:1-3.

v 11, Judah is unfaithful.

So how is Judah unfaithful?

First ... by marrying women who worship another God.

... he is against the idea of people adding to their households the worship of another god

Mal 2:12 ... he will be removed from YHWH's people

Secondly ... they are casting aside their Israelite wives to marry the foreign women who worship these foreign gods

... crying crocodile tears before God.

God requires

verse 15... he seeks Godly offspring.

What is verse 16 saying?

TWO ways it can be understood.

“The man who hates and divorces his wife, says the Lord, the God of Israel, does violence to the one he should protect”.

“I hate divorce, says the Lord, the God of Israel, because a man who divorces his wife covers his garment with violence”.

God hates, he is condemning the actions of the man who casts aside his wife for no valid reason and who has shacked up with a wife who does not follow YHWH.

... but misused as it is quoted and universally applied

For us today

Firstly ... God is not allowing or encouraging racist attitudes in his people.

... this prohibition is all about God wanting his people NOT marry people who follow other gods.

... seek to marry people who also follow Jesus.

Secondly ... marriage is not a contract of mutual obligations ... but it is a covenant

Thirdly ... it might also speak to us as people who might have divorced our spouse for the wrong reasons.

Fourthly, a call to godly faithfulness as followers of God.

...to be faithful ... to be godly offspring.

Are you reflecting this in the way that you are being faith and godly in your relationship with others

God requires us to act justly and love mercy

What might faithfulness in marriage looks like?

The problem of porn