

GROWING IN FAITH



Malachi

"A son honors his father, and servants their master. If then I am a father, where is the honor due me? And if I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. You say, "How have we despised your name?" By offering polluted food on my altar. And you say, "How have we polluted it?" By thinking that the Lord's table may be despised."

- Malachi 1:6-7

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GOING DEEPER

In the video, Josh talked about most people having a 'canon within a canon'. This means that we tend to place more importance or focus on certain scriptures over others.

Have you noticed this in your own devotional life? Which scriptures and stories do you tend to read the most? What are the pros and cons of having a canon within a canon? How can we stretch ourselves beyond the stories we are already comfortable with?

Malachi was concerned about a lack of piety in the community. People were not really connecting with God. They were just going through the motions. John Wesley was also concerned about living lives of piety and growing in our faith.

Josh listed several acts of piety in the video. Which acts of piety, or devotional acts, have you found helpful in your faith journey? What acts of piety are you willing to commit to doing for the next seven days? As a group, hold each other accountable to these.

Malachi 1:6-7 tells us that people were offering impure sacrifices to God. They weren't really giving their best, they were just going through the motions.

What is the difference in your own spirit when you give something out of a sense of obligation versus giving out of gratitude? In what ways, other than monetarily, can we give our best to God?

Malachi spoke to the priests of the temple about having integrity in their instructions and teaching. Josh mentioned the idea of the "Priesthood of All Believers" or the "Ministry of the Baptized".

How do you see yourself as a minister of the gospel? How are you ensuring that what you are teaching others about Christianity through your words and actions is being done with integrity?