When Spiritual Leaders Fail You

Malachi 2:1-9
June 29, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** A church rises no higher than its pulpit. Where spiritual leaders fail, the spiritual health of the church fails. Even though there are numerous spiritual leaders that fail, there is a Great High Priest who is perfect in all His ways.

Malachi 2:1-9 (NASB95)

2 "And now this commandment is for you, O priests. 2 If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to My name," says the Lord of hosts, "then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them *already*, because you are not taking *it* to heart. 3 Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your feasts; and you will be taken away with it. 4 Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant may continue with Levi," says the Lord of hosts. 5 "My covenant with him was *one of* life and peace, and I gave them to him *as an object of* reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name. 6 True instruction was in his mouth and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. 8 But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi," says the Lord of hosts. 9 "So I also have made you despised and abased before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the instruction."

The Duties of Old Testament Priests

- The priests were descendants of Levi and Aaron.
- The Lord commanded the priests to listen and to take it to heart that they were failing to honor the name of God.
- "So you shall keep My commandments, and do them; I am the Lord. "You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be sanctified among the sons of Israel; I am the Lord who sanctifies you."- Leviticus 22:31-32
- The priests turned aside from faithfully teaching the people.
- One of the primary duties of the priests was to offer sacrifices.

Christ Our Great High Priest

1. Jesus is not just a priest in name; He is a priest in function.
2. Jesus is a priest in the line of Melchizedek.
3. If Jesus had any sin, He could not atone for our sins.
4. Jesus is both priest and sacrifice for sins.
5. On the cross, Jesus Christ offers once and for all the perfect, lasting, eternal, sacrifice for sin.
6. How can one person atone for the sins of a multitude? Because that One person is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Faithfully Building the Church

1. The purpose of pastors and ministry leaders is not to entertain you.
2. The Church will not be built through gimmicks.
3. God builds His church where the Word of God is proclaimed.
4. The highest duty of the minister is to glorify Christ in all that they do.

"Unholy sinners do stand in need of a holy priest and a holy sacrifice. What we have not in ourselves we must have in Him, or we shall not be accepted with the holy God, who is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity."

John Owen