

## Malachi 1-2 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Malachi 1:9-11 how did God feel about their sacrifices (v9-10)? Why should they have worshiped God differently (v11)?

5. Based on 1:12-14 what priestly actions were defiling the Lord's table (v12-13)? What did God call those who failed to offer the sacrifices they had promised (v14)? Apply.

6. According to 2:1-4 what would God do to the priests who would not honor Him (v1-2, 3)? What would they know from this (v4) and why would God do it (v4)?

7. Using 2:5-9 what had priestly tribe of Levi (see Num 25:6-13) done right before God at first (v5, 6, 7)? How had the current priests acted (v8-9) and what had God done (v9)?

8. Looking at 2:10-12 how had Judah acted treacherously against his brother (v10, 11)? What should happen to those who did this (v12), and why do you think this is so severe?

9. In 2:13-16 why were the Jews weeping (v13) and what was the real cause (v14)? How did the remnant act, by contrast (v15)? What was wrong with this (v16)?

10. From 2:17 how else was Israel unfaithful to God (v17)? How did this affect Him (v17)?

11. Review Malachi 1-2. List the things that Israel was doing wrong and the consequences. Based on this what does God desire?

### Scripture to Remember

*"For I hate divorce," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "and him who covers his garment with wrong," says the Lord of hosts. "So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously."*

**Malachi 2:16 (NASV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

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**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Saul's Fatal Flaw (1 Samuel 15)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. What are some major choices in life? How much time do people usually devote to making these decisions and what is their basis? How do you compare?
2. Look at 1 Sam 13-15. Recap Saul's 3 bad decisions (13:8-14; 14:24-30; 15:1-9). What do you think Saul's decisions were based on? How did this pervert God's will? Apply.
3. When Saul was confronted how did he "rationalize", "criticize", and "baptize" his sin? Can you think of a time in your life when you did this? Why do we do this?
4. Explain the truth of these statements: "to obey is better than sacrifice" and "disobedience is like witchcraft". How can we put that in our terms today?
5. What was the result of Saul's disobedience? How was this opposite of what he thought he was accomplishing? So why did he (do we) do it?
6. What was Saul's real problem? Why is insecurity always a fatal flaw and where does it come from? Share about your struggle with it, and discuss ways to positively deal with this issue.
7. If there is anything else from the message that impressed you, share it.



# IN YOUR FACE

Studies in the Minor Prophets

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## Clueless

### Introduction to Malachi 1-2

The superficiality of California's "valley girls" was captured in the 1995 movie, "Clueless". As the title suggests they didn't have a clue about the way life or true love really worked. This week's study in Malachi presents the same picture of Israel around 400BC. They were clueless about God's nature, about His desires, and about their superficial approach to life and worship. Malachi opens by presenting Israel's dismissive attitudes towards God's love. As many people do today they questioned God's love for them because they had not considered just how much He had demonstrated it. A prime example of this was the difference in His treatment of Jacob and Esau, the twin brothers from which the nations of Israel and Edom de-

scended. Although Esau was the firstborn God had loved Jacob and "hated" Esau, relatively speaking. Esau had been a godless reprobate, and his descendants followed suit. God promised to destroy him and resist any attempts he made at rebuilding. Israel, however, seemed clueless about their favored treatment by God. Secondly, Malachi rehearsed Israel's dishonoring worship of God. They disdained the table of sacrifices, offering the blind, lame and sick animals to God even though they had promised the finest of the flock. They wouldn't have dared offer such presents to their governor, but they acted this way towards God. God, whose name would be great to the ends of the earth refused to accept such dishonoring sacrifices. He would discipline His



**It is good when God gets in our face and straightens us up through His Word.**

priests by humbling them before all the people and rejecting their offerings. Finally, Malachi showed Israel's disloyalty to their marriage vows. They were unfaithful to God because they married foreign women who worshiped false gods. But they were also disloyal to their marriage vows since they dealt treacherously with their wives by divorcing them, covering up their sin, and then declaring their evil as good in the sight of the Lord. This wearied God, who hates divorce; however, when it came to understanding Him, they were clueless.

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

## Daily Study Questions for Malachi 1-2

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Malachi 1:1-3. What was God's declaration to Israel (v2—Jacob is Israel), how did Israel respond (v2) and what did that imply? What was God's answer (v2-3) and what did He mean?</p>	
<p>2. Using 1:4-5 what did God promise regarding Edom (Esau, Jacob's brother) in v4? How would this affect Israel (v5)?</p>	
<p>3. In 1:6-8 what was God's question and the priest's response (v6)? How had they defiled God (v7-8) and why was this so bad (v8b)?</p>	

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