

Series: Wake-up Call
Passage: Malachi 2:10-16
Sunday: November 5, 2023

Malachi 2:10-16 (ESV)

Judah Profaned the Covenant

¹⁰ Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers? ¹¹ Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god. ¹² May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob any descendant of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

¹³ And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. ¹⁴ But you say, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ "For the man who does not love his wife but divorces her, says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless."

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1. Was family loyalty a significant ideal growing up? If so, why was it so important to your family?

 2. In verse 10, what problem has been introduced? How have God's people been unfaithful or disloyal?

 3. In verse 11, Judah refers to the full audience, not a specific person. What have God's people done to the sanctuary and how have they done it?

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4. According to verse 13, how do the people feel about God's rejection? Why was God rejecting their offering?

5. It feels that the people are crying over a problem that they created. Do you ever find yourself complaining to other people or God about a problem you created?

6. According to verses 14-15, what do we see is God's role in a marriage covenant? How had they forgotten God's activity in their marriage?

7. How does the metaphor of a marriage relationship between Christ and His Church relate to the instruction in this passage?

8. How is this passage a wake-up call for you?