



GLC PRESENTS:
▲BOOK STUDIES

MALACHI

Sessions 5 and 6 **YOUR BEST**
Sessions 1 and 2

Ptr. Jonathan Fenix
and Judah Paolo

NAME

CONTACT INFO:



MALACHI : GIVE GOD YOUR BEST

Copyright © 2016 by Global Leadership Center

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other, without the prior permission of GLC.

Schedule

August 10

Session One – Introduction

Chapter 1:1

Session Two – First Dispute

Chapter 1:2 to verse 5

August 17

Session Three – Second Dispute

Chapter 1:6 to Chapter 2:9

Session Four – Third Dispute

Chapter 2:10 to verse 16

August 24

Session Five – Fourth Dispute

Chapter 2:17 to Chapter 3:5

Session Six – Fifth Dispute

Chapter 3:6 to verse 12

August 31

Session Seven – Sixth Dispute

Chapter 3:13 to verse 18

Session Eight – Epilogue and Conclusion

Chapter 4:1 to verse 6

SESSION 5

The Fourth Dispute: DEFYING GOD'S JUSTICE (Malachi 2:17-3:5)

¹⁷ You have wearied the Lord with your words.

Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?"

In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,"

or, "Where is the God of justice?"

¹ "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

² "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

³ He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in righteousness.

⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵ "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers and against the adulterers and against those who swear falsely, and against those who oppress the wage earner in his wages, the widow and the orphan, and those who turn aside the alien and do not fear Me," says the Lord of hosts.

-
1. How did the people weary God?
 2. Why were the people challenging God's justice?
 3. What will God do to carry out His justice?

1. How did the people weary God?

- By defying and questioning God's Justice.

17 You have wearied the Lord with your words.

Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?"

In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good

in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,"

or, "Where is the God of justice?"

DEFINITION:

- **God's JUSTICE**
- **EVIL**

2. Why were the people challenging God's justice?

- **Evil men were prosperous.**
- **The wicked were not getting punished.**
- **The Promises of God were left unfulfilled.**

3. What will God do to carry out His justice?

- **God will send His messenger.**
(Isa 40:3 / Luke 1:12-17 / Mark 1:4-8 / John 1:6:8 / Matt 11:7-15)
- **God will come to His temple.**
- **God will bring His judgment.**

-
- ✧ **Prophet:** You have wearied the LORD.
 - ✧ **People:** “How?”
 - ✧ **Prophet:** Because you question and challenge His justice, and believe the wicked will go unpunished.
 - **Proof:** God is a God of Justice. It is one of His attributes which shines forth from His Holiness.
 - **Problem:**
To defy God’s Justice is to taunt and doubt His character. This leads to cynicism and a pathetic display of one’s worship to God.

Let us consider **God’s Justice** as:
Fully accomplished in
The Cross of Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:23-26 (NLT)

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Group Discussion

1. How do you feel when you see evil acts committed? What would you like to happen to those who commit them?
2. Do you have any good reasons to doubt God's justice? Why or why not?
3. Are you prepared to face God's judgment? And how can you warn others

SESSION 6

The Fifth Dispute: DENYING GOD'S DUE (Malachi 3:6-12)

Introduction:

- Jacob had 12 sons.
- Joseph, the firstborn son of his favorite wife Rachel was given a double portion of the inheritance through his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh, making the total number of tribes 13.
- The tribe of Levi however, were only give residential property. Their role was to serve at the LORD's tabernacle/temple and not to be pre-occupied with farming and herding..
- In order for the Levites to survive and support their families, the other tribes were commanded by God to give 10% of their harvest to the Levites.
- The Levites in turn were to give 10% of what they received to the priests (who were Levites from the family line of Aaron, Moses' brother).
- Since the temple was rebuilt (515 B.C.) and the Levites resumed their duties, it was assumed that tithing should also be reinstated.

Numbers 18:21-23a

²¹ “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting.²² From now on the Israelites must not go near the tent of meeting, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die.²³ It is the Levites who are to do the work at the tent of meeting and bear the responsibility for any offenses they commit against it.

Numbers 18:23b-24

This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. They will receive no inheritance among the Israelites.

²⁴ Instead, I give to the Levites as their inheritance the tithes that the Israelites present as an offering to the LORD. That is why I said concerning them: ‘They will have no inheritance among the Israelites.’”

Numbers 18:25-27

²⁵ The LORD said to Moses,²⁶ “Speak to the Levites and say to them: ‘When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD’s offering.²⁷ Your offering will be reckoned to you as grain from the threshing floor or juice from the winepress.

Numbers 18:28-29

²⁸ In this way you also will present an offering to the LORD from all the tithes you receive from the Israelites. From these tithes you must give the LORD’s portion to Aaron the priest.²⁹ You must present as the LORD’s portion the best and holiest part of everything given to you.’

Numbers 18:30-32

³⁰

“Say to the Levites: ‘When you present the best part, it will be reckoned to you as the product of the threshing floor or the winepress.³¹ You and your households may eat the rest of it anywhere, for it is your wages for your work at the tent of meeting.³² By presenting the best part of it you will not be guilty in this matter; then you will not defile the holy offerings of the Israelites, and you will not die.’”

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

²²

Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year.²³ Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.

Deuteronomy 14:24-25

²⁴

But if that place is too distant and you have been blessed by the LORD your God and cannot carry your tithe (because the place where the LORD will choose to put his Name is so far away),²⁵

then exchange your tithe for silver, and take the silver with you and go to the place the LORD your God will choose.

Deuteronomy 14:26-27

²⁶

Use the silver to buy whatever you like: cattle, sheep, wine or other fermented drink, or anything you wish. Then you and your household shall eat there in the presence of the LORD your

God and rejoice.²⁷ And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own.

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

²⁸

At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year’s produce and store it in your towns,²⁹ so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Malachi 3:6-12

⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

-
- **God:** “You are robbing me!”
 - **The People:** “How are we robbing you?”
 - **God:** “You are denying me my due by withholding from my temple the WHOLE tithes and offerings.”
 - **Proof:** The people have returned to the land and have been there for decades (around 70-80 years since their return until the time of Malachi). All that time they have been denying the Levites, and ultimately God, their proper portion from their harvest.
 - **Problem:** Robbing God is also robbing yourself.

1 Corinthians 16:1-4

¹ Now about the collection for the Lord's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do.

² On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping ³ with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with ⁴ your gift to Jerusalem. If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows ⁷ generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your ⁸ heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your ¹¹ store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:12-15

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also ¹³ overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace ¹⁵ God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Gift of Giving

- **God owns everything.**
- **God allows us to enjoy what He owns.**
- **God gives us more than what we need so we can share with others who are in need.**
- **Giving does not only bless others but more importantly, brings honor and glory to God.**

Group Discussion

1. Why was tithing (or more accurately, not tithing) such a big deal for God during the Old Testament?
2. Why should New Testament believers “go beyond” or “surpass” the Old Testament tithing?
3. How do you personally feel about the “gift of being able to give?” Why do you feel that way about it?