

Confronting Complacency: The Book of Malachi

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The Fruit of Complacency (Malachi 1:6-2:9)

1. Complacency is Careless (1:6-14)

2. Complacency is Contagious (2:1-9)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What was the odd/most disappointing Christmas present you received as a child?

Going Deeper

3. Read Malachi 1:6-2:9. Make a list of all the exalted titles used to describe God in this passage. What made Israel's "*sacrifices*" to God so profoundly offensive (see 1:6-8)?
4. Why is God especially upset with Israel's priests (see 2:5-9)? How did their complacency towards the worship of God impact the entire nation?
5. How are we to understand God's warning to the priests in 2:3? What were priests supposed to do with the "*dung*" of the sacrifice (see Exodus 29:13; Leviticus 16:27)? What is God saying he will do to this priesthood and their descendants if they don't repent (see also 2:2)?

Application

6. Jeff provided three questions to help us diagnose spiritual complacency in our lives; (1) Is my devotion to God costly, or is it merely convenient (see 2 Samuel 24:24)? (2) Is my attitude towards serving God one of rejoicing or resentment (see 1:13; 2 Corinthians 9:7). Do I only call on God as a last resort (1:14)? Which of these questions stood out to you? Why?
7. Jeff challenged each of us to ask, "*if every Christ-follower looked like me, what would God's people look like?*" How would you answer this question?
8. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?