

# Challenging God with Foolish Questions

Malachi 1-3

Introduction:

1. Sad when a child who has been given a better life than their parents become ungrateful. Birthday and Christmas gifts, "Is that all?"
2. There may be times when we behave the same way with our heavenly Father.
3. O.T. shares with us a conversation God had with His children and they, because of ingratitude, asked God a series of foolish questions.
  - I. "How have You loved us?" - Malachi 1:2
    - A. God chose them to be His children.
      1. Under Persian rule. Their agriculture suffered, they knew they were slaves in a foreign land and asked, "How have You loved us, if we are suffering?"
      2. Their ruin was due to their unfaithfulness and disobedience. God demonstrated His love in that He still called them His children, blessed them, and had a plan to return them to Jerusalem.
      3. Malachi 1:2-5 - Reminded that Esau deserved the firstborn blessings, yet He chose Jacob the younger.
    - B. John 3:16; 15:13 -Is this not the message of the cross?
      1. What should our attitude be towards God in light of the sacrifice on Calvary?
      2. Sadly, the majority of mankind does not appreciate God and His love to the extent of obeying Him.
  - II. "How have we despised Your name? - Malachi 1:6
    - A. In that they offered blind, lame and sick sacrifices to God (7-10; 13-14; Lev. 21:8, 21; Deut. 15:21)
    - B. Are we guilty of giving God that which costs us little? Have we offered the sick, lame, and blind? (Rom. 12:1-2)
  - III. "How have we wearied You? - Malachi 2:17
    - A. They went as far as blaming God for the ills and suffering. They accused God of breaking His covenant. (Hebrews 6:18)
    - B. Reality is that many accuse God for their misfortune. "Why me, Lord?" (Job 2:10, "shall we accept good and not adversity?")
  - IV. "How have we robbed You?" - Malachi 3:8-9

- A. Note that at first the accusation is towards the individual, then as a nation.
  - B. They were not paying their tithes as they could, those that did it, payed with the wrong attitude.
  - C. Same can be true in the N.T., under the law of grace and liberty. (1 Cor. 16). It all has to do with attitude.
  - D. Have you robbed God?
- V. "What have we spoken against You?" - Malachi 3:13-15
- A. The complained that it was useless to serve God faithfully. They complained amongst themselves, and in public.
  - B. They ignored all the good God had done for them. They ignored that God could have destroyed them as in the flood or Sodom and Gomorrah.
  - C. Have we failed to recognize God's goodness?

Conclusion:

1. People needed a lesson on humility, gratefulness and repentance.
2. Are we any different? Lesson adapted from Higginbotham