

## Holiness and Leadership



### **Authentic Leadership?**

God desires great maturity and leadership in all of us. Leaders in Malachi's day as now need to hear this prophetic voice and "...give glory to the name of the Most High."

**Introduction: Why leaders fail...** 2 Chronicles 15:17  
Incomplete obedience — dealing with the 'high places.'  
(See the reverse side of this handout)

### **A. Godly Leadership: A Matter of the Heart :1-3**

Leaders must 'set their heart' on God

1. Leaders must 'give glory to the Name of God'  
These leaders did not... 2 Tim 3:5; Tit 1:6
2. **If** not... There was still a chance of repentance
  - a. Curse is used three times :2
  - b. Blessings would be cursed :2  
*The priests lived off the tithes that the people brought!*
  - c. Descendants would suffer :3
  - d. Refuse (*dung*) put on face and cast out of camp :3  
*This was a graphic picture of the ugliness of sin and how sin pollutes the witness and message of the Gospel.*

### **B. Godly Leadership: A Matter of Practice :4-6**

1. The Levitical covenant was to endure unaltered  
*The Levites: (Num 1:47-54)*
  - a. Kept the Temple
  - b. Taught the law
  - c. Served with the Aaronic priesthood
  - d. The functions of the Levites symbolized cleansing and dedication
2. Malachi describes what a priest should be: :5-6
  - a. Full of life and peace :5
  - b. Reverent :5
  - c. True teachers of God's word :6
  - d. Righteous (holy) :6

### **C. When Godly Leadership is in Decline :7-9**

1. Custodians of learning :7
2. Instead of leading people to 'the way' they turned people from 'the way.' :8
3. The covenant of Levi (Levitical Priesthood) :8  
*Num 1:47-54; Ex 38:21*
4. Shown partiality: Spun the law to their own desires :9

*He who has learned to obey will know how to command.  
Leadership is a combination of strategy and character.*

*If you must be without one, be without the strategy.*

- Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

### Malachi 2:1-9

#### **A. A Matter of the Heart**

**:1** "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you.

**:2** **If** you will not hear, and if you will not (A1) take it to heart, (A2) **to give glory to My name**," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a **curse** upon you, and I will **curse** your blessings. Yes, I have **curse**d them already, because you do not take it to heart."

**:3** "Behold, I will (A3-c) rebuke your descendants (A3-d) and spread refuse on your faces, the refuse of your solemn feasts; And *one* will take you away with it."

#### **B. A Matter of Practice**

**:4** Then you shall know that I have sent this commandment to you, that (B1) My covenant with Levi may continue," Says the LORD of hosts.

**:5** "My covenant was with him, *one* of (B2-a) life and peace, and I gave them to him *that he might fear Me*; So he feared Me And was (B2-b) reverent before My name.

**:6** The (B2-c) law of truth was in his mouth, and (B2-d) injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, and turned many away from iniquity."

#### **C. Leadership in Decline**

**:7** "For the lips of a priest (C1) should keep knowledge, and *people* should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

**:8** But you have (C2) departed from the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law. (C3) You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts.

**:9** "Therefore I also have made you contemptible and base before all the people, because you have not kept My ways but have shown partiality in the law."