

Silent Treatment Prelude
Malachi Introduction
(May 19, 2013)

Why is there silence after Malachi? Malachi 2:17

They asked:

- 1:2 In what way have You loved us?
 - 1:6 In what way have we despised Your name?
 - 1:7 In what way have we defiled You?
 - 1:9 But now will you not entreat God's favor, that He may be gracious to us?
- Where's our blessing?
- 1:12-13 Oh, what a weariness! the assemblies and sacrifices...
 - 2:13-14 you cover the altar of the Lord with tears..For what reason?
 - 2:17 In what way have we wearied Him?
 - 3:8 In what way have we robbed You?
 - 3:13 What have we spoken against You?
 - 3:14 What profit is it that we have kept His charge?

Today, you ought to ask:

- 1:2 Do I experience God's love for me?
- 1:6 Do I treat God's name as holy?
- 1:7 Do I approach God with reverence, awe and holiness?
- 1:9 Do I ask for blessing, when I am not in fellowship with Him because of sin?
- 1:13 Do I say, how tiresome it is to assemble for church?
- 2:13-14 Do I grumble about my situation and not trust God's sovereignty?
- 2:17 Do I go through religious rituals without passion?
- 3:8 Do I keep from the Lord my time, talents, and treasures
- 3:13 Do I make light of God and grumble or blame-shift?
- 3:14 Do I act like obedience is a duty, rather than a joyous response?

- 1) Israel is indifferent to God's love Malachi 1
- 2) Israel is indifferent to God's law Malachi 2
- 3) Israel is indifferent to God's message Malachi 3
- 4) Israel is indifferent to the Day of the Lord Malachi 4

- 1) **Author** - Malachi – "My Messenger."
- 2) **The Religious Setting - Israel was in the pits.** While the Lord reached down to pull Israel out, Israel said, "We're not in a pit."
 - **Israel was indifferent, rather than eagerly waiting:** Religiously 1:6-10; 2:17; Morally 2:11-16; Socially 3:5; Materially 3:8-10
 - **Failure to remember God's covenant** 1:2-5; 4:4; cf. Deut. 8:3-14
- 3) **Christ in Malachi:**
 - "Great King" Mal. 1:14
 - "The Messenger of the Covenant" Mal. 3:1
 - "The Sun of Righteousness" Mal. 4:2

Respond in awe to God's Word or hear His silence.

Message Based Discussion Questions

- 1) How does it make you feel when someone you love gives you the silent treatment?

Digging Deeper:

- 2) What was the problem in the church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)? How is it the same as Israel in the time of Malachi?
- 3) How would you describe how people communicate without saying anything? What do the following passages say about non-verbal communication (Gen. 3:7-10; 4:5-6; 40:6-7; Josh 7:6; 1 Sam. 18:4; 1 King 9:3-4; 21:4; 1 John 3:17)? What do you think people are saying to God by their actions?
- 4) How would you describe Israel in the time of Malachi religiously (Mal. 1:6-10); morally (Mal. 2:11-16); socially (Mal. 3:5); and economically (Mal. 3:8-10)?

Making application from the message to life:

- 5) What was God's message through Jeremiah to Israel in Jeremiah 14:13 – 15:6? Do you suppose God has a point or line that when crossed He says, "Enough!"? What discernment should that give us in life application?
- 6) How do you think USA would fair related to a message like Malachi? What do you think would be said if USA were a biblically chosen people by God?
- 7) What are spiritual indicators of "indifference" or "anticipation"?