

SCRIPTURE: Malachi  
DEVOTIONAL READING: Luke 21:4-17

**Malachi Demands Sincere Religion**

Lesson for May 16, 1948

GET ready for some straight talk in next Sunday's lesson. Malachi reveals the dark picture of unrequited love, polluted offerings, impious priests, unfaithful husbands. You wonder if Sam Jones has come back to life. He begins by crying, "The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi." We shall miss the entire meaning of this lesson if we fail to read every word of the Book of Malachi. We cannot claim any of the promises of a better day, as indicated in the latter section of Malachi unless and until we deal with such hypocrisy as may infest our lives today, even as the priests and people were consumed with iniquity when Malachi prophesied unto them.

**GIVING OUR BEST TO GOD**

"A SON honoureth his father, and a servant his master; if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear?" Malachi 1:6.

How can God bring good out of evil, when his people hold back their best from him? Let us bring it closer home, and ask, How can our earthly parents do their best for us, when we give them half-hearted allegiance?

**OUR BEST IN WORSHIP**

PASSAGES in the first, second and third chapters of Malachi reveal the lack of sincerity on the part of the priests in the worship which they offered and which they taught the people to offer. Here we see that unclean hands can never bring an acceptable offering unto the Lord. He looketh on the heart. He knows what is in man.

Using the house of God to make a show before men was one of the shameful evils of the priests in the days of Malachi. It did not fool God then, nor will it fool him today. Unless our worship is an expression of something fine and sincere, he will not accept it.

**THE DAY OF RECKONING**

"BEHOLD, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in. . . . But who shall abide the day of his coming?"

One would think that such words of warning would have brought the priests and the people to their senses in humble contrition before God; but they continued to disregard the words of God's messenger.

"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

Thus did God warn. And the day of reckoning did come—a day in which priests and people went down beneath the chariot wheels of the invaders. And once again the warnings of God, though despised, were fulfilled to the last word in the terrible punishment upon those who forgot him.

**THE PROMISE TO THE FAITHFUL**

BUT God does not forget those who truly love him, and thus the Book of Malachi closes with the words of promise to the faithful. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." Malachi 4:2.

The remnants of those who remained true to God in the midst of a wicked generation were used to perpetuate his witness in the earth. The dark days of persecution could not put out the light of his presence and peace.

Let us pause as we study this Book of Malachi and search our own souls, lest we be guilty of the hypocrisy which destroyed the people in the long ago. With every strand of strength which he grants us, let us do with our might what our hands find to do, and the peace that passeth all understanding, will be our portion.

"And all flesh shall see the salvation of the Lord."

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**Church News**

**Presbyterian Church**  
Rev. C. S. Hastings — Pastor

10:30 a. m., Morning Worship.  
11:45 a. m., Sunday School.  
6:30 p. m., Young People's Meeting.

**Methodist Church**  
Howard G. Moore, Pastor

Morning Service — 10:00 a. m.  
Sunday School — 11:15 a. m.

**Church of God**  
Ora A. Holley — Pastor

Sunday School — 10:00 a. m.  
Church Service — 11:00 a. m.  
Sunday Eve — 8:00 p. m.  
Friday evening Prayer Meeting at 8:00 o'clock.  
You are invited to attend.

**United Missionary Church**  
Rev. F. I. Rouse, Pastor

Preaching Service — 11:00 a. m.  
Sunday School — 10:00 a. m.  
Evening Service — 7:30 p. m.  
Thursday Prayer Service — 8:00 p. m.

**Full Gospel Church**  
Rev. Sanford Cook, pastor

Sunday School — 10 a. m.  
Morning Worship — 11 a. m.  
Evangelistic Service 8:00 p. m.  
Prayer & Praise, Thursday, 8 p. m.

**Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints.**

Pastor — Elder O. Olson  
Church School — 10:00 o'clock.  
Preaching — 11:00 o'clock.  
Zion's League — 5:00 o'clock.  
7:30 p. m. — Preaching service.  
Prayer Meeting — Wednesday night at 8:00 o'clock.

**St. Joseph Church**  
East Jordan  
Rev. Joseph J. Malinowski, Pastor

MASSES  
Sunday Masses — 7:30 and 9:30 a. m.  
Holydays — 6:00 and 7:30 a. m.  
Week-day Masses — 8:00 a. m.

**Lighthouse Mission**  
"BASEMENT CHURCH"

Corner Fourth and E. Division Sts.  
Rev. Harley Barber, Pastor

Sunday School — 10:30 a. m.  
Worship Service — 11:30 a. m.  
Evening Service — 8:00 p. m.  
Young Peoples P.Y.P.A. service — Sunday, 7:00 o'clock.  
Wednesday evening prayer meeting 8:00 o'clock.

"Use your noodle, lady, use your noodle," roared the traffic cop.  
"Oh, my goodness! Will you show me where it is? I've pushed and pulled everything in this car."

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**MONUMENTS**  
EAST JORDAN, MICH.

**10 YEAR PLAN**  
STARTING IN 10th YEAR  
YOU WILL GET BACK \$12 PER MONTH  
FOR FOLLOWING 10 YEARS  
WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$1,387  
(You have saved \$7,040 and receive profit of \$347)

**20 YEAR PLAN**  
STARTING IN 20th YEAR  
YOU WILL GET BACK \$27 PER MONTH  
FOR FOLLOWING 10 YEARS  
WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$3,237  
(You have saved \$2,080 and receive profit of \$1,157)

**30 YEAR PLAN**  
STARTING IN 30th YEAR  
YOU WILL GET BACK \$48 PER MONTH  
FOR FOLLOWING 10 YEARS  
WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$5,703  
(You have saved \$3,120 and receive profit of \$2,583)

AND YOU WILL GET BACK: \$12 PER MONTH FOR 10 YEARS WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$1,387

AND YOU WILL GET BACK: \$27 PER MONTH FOR 10 YEARS WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$3,237

AND YOU WILL GET BACK: \$48 PER MONTH FOR 10 YEARS WHICH IS A TOTAL OF \$5,703

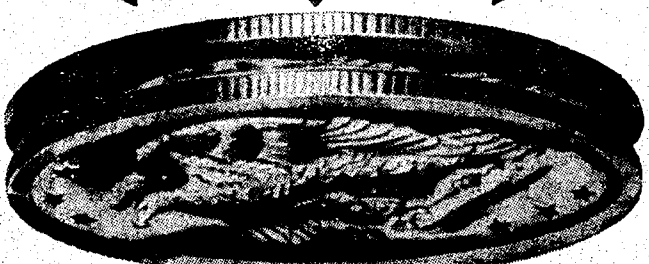
ASSUMING REINVESTMENT OF FACE VALUE OF BONDS AS THEY MATURE AND CONTINUED WEEKLY SAVING

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