

## Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. How do you think God - who sacrificed so much for us by sending his Son - feels about churches where half-hearted worship and poor attitudes are given by the people? How does God feel about spiritual leaders who tolerate people not giving their best?
2. **Read Exodus 20:7; John 6:22-23; Matthew 6:9.** God is committed to the honor of his name. What do these verses teach us about ways we can grow the fame of God's name in this world?
3. Malachi 1:8-9 reminds us that worshipping God by giving the leftovers of our energy, time, and money doesn't leave God favorably disposed to answer our prayers. According to the following verses, what else can prevent our prayers from being answered? **Read Mark 11:25-26; James 1:6-7; James 4:3; 1 Peter 3:7; John 5:14-15.**
4. **Read 2 Samuel 24:22-25.** In this passage, David refused to give an offering to the Lord that cost him nothing. After studying Malachi 1:6-14, do you think it was essential for David's offering to cost him something for his prayer to be effective on this crucial occasion? What does this teach us about the relationship between the personal and financial costliness of the things we do to honor Christ and God's response to our prayers?
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:7-8; Ephesians 5:1-3; 1 Peter 1:15-16.** One of the ways we honor God is holy living. What do these verses teach us about how to live a holy life?
6. Malachi 1:14 teaches us about the importance of not renegeing on our commitments to God and giving him less than we promised. Today, we don't vow to give animals as a sacrifice. Instead, we promise to give ourselves in service to Christ and his church. What do these verses teach us about the way God feels when people are not faithful in keeping their commitments to serve Christ in his church? See also Acts 5:1-11.
7. **Read Proverbs 3:9-10; 1 Samuel 2:27-30; 2 Chronicles 26:18; John 12:26.** What are the results of honoring God and giving our best? What are the consequences of giving God leftovers?



## Malachi 1:6-14 – Where Is My Honor?

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### 1. God deserves honor; especially from spiritual leaders.

*"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' Malachi 1:6 (ESV)*

*"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Deuteronomy 5:16 (ESV)*

*When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1 (ESV)*

*For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 4 (ESV)*

*"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. Deuteronomy 5:11 (ESV)*

## 2. How do we dishonor God?

### 1. We dishonor God by not giving our best.

*But you say, 'How have we despised your name?' By offering polluted food upon my altar. But you say, 'How have we polluted you?' By saying that the Lord's table may be despised. When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Malachi 1:6b–8a (ESV)*

*But if it has any blemish, if it is lame or blind or has any serious blemish whatever, you shall not sacrifice it to the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 15:21 (ESV)*

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 (ESV)*

### 2. We dishonor God when we serve him with a bad attitude.

*But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and its fruit, that is, its food may be despised. But you say, 'What a weariness this is,' and you snort at it, says the Lord of hosts. You bring what has been taken by violence or is lame or sick, and this you bring as your offering! Shall I accept that from your hand? says the Lord. Malachi 1:12–13 (ESV)*

### 3. We dishonor God when we don't fulfill our commitments.

*Cursed be the cheat who has a male in his flock, and vows it, and yet sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished. For I am a great King, says the*

*Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations. Malachi 1:14 (ESV)*

## 3. What are the results of dishonoring God?

### 1. Dishonoring God leads to Him ignoring our prayers.

*Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts. And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 1:9 (ESV)*

*In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, Genesis 4:3–4 (ESV)*

### 2. Dishonoring God leaves Him disgusted with our worship.

*Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the Lord of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand. Malachi 1:10 (ESV)*

### 3. Dishonoring God moves us outside of God's plan to spread the greatness of his name in this world.

*For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 1:11 (ESV)*