

their God, they didn't believe him, they ended up doing what felt good to themselves.

I'm sure we all know what a poor guide that is when it comes to knowing what is right and wrong. In Jesus we have the wonderful ability to make sound judgments in our daily lives. In our relationship with Jesus we have a solid foundation to make our daily choices by.

The final attitude that Malachi mentions is that the Children of Israel are withholding their tithe. The tithe was given as a gift to keep the Children of Israel free from slavery to wealth. Their security, their identity came from the LORD not how much money they had.

What happens to any relationship where money begins to take control?

Life isn't found in wealth. My life isn't improved when I'm a hoarder. Because life isn't about money, but about being loved and loving others. And love isn't a commodity we can buy, it is part of us that we give away, taking the risk of losing ourselves for the other person's benefit. That's how Jesus daily lives. He risks losing himself that we might be blessed, for our benefit. What happens to a relationship when we risk losing ourselves that the other person might be blessed for their benefit? Imagine if the whole world lived that way, what might it look like?

So this week I've heard the Holy Spirit, through

Malachi, reminding me to have five attitudes in all my relationships. Especially my relationship with God in Jesus. These attitudes are; to give my best, honour others, let Jesus determine my morality, live by God's right and wrong, and be generous in loving as I am loved by Jesus.

Let us pray.
Jesus thank you for being faithful to us in all these attitudes. Thank you that you give your best, that you honour us, that you value us, that you empower us to live according to your will, that you're always generous. Help us to reflect all you've give us in all our relationships. Help us this week to seek love and be loved as we are by you. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

5 August 2012

THE PROPHETS—MALACHI

E100



This week for the E100 readings we focused on the writing of the Prophets. The Prophets were sent by the LORD to call his people to follow him. Sadly they are often calling a community that has wandered off doing their own thing. The LORD has little or no influence on their daily lives, and is often replaced by other ways of living which promise more wealth.

The last Prophet was Malachi, and there was a gap of over 400yrs before the next prophet, John the Baptist.

I think that would be one of the worst things to happen, to have God stop sharing his life with us. I'd hate to have the Holy Spirit be silent and no longer speak to my soul of the amazing

love, grace and mercy that we have in Jesus.

What was the cause of this silence, of this broken communication?

I'm sure the LORD was as passionate about his people as ever. I know for certain that in Jesus God is passionate about us, about sharing his life with us today. That is always a given, because God is love.

He can't be anything else, that's simply who he is, and God refuses to be anything other than true to himself. That's good news.

Unfortunately the breakdown in communication was a result of the Children of Israel not listening. They looked around for a better deal, for an easier way, one that didn't cost them

everything and provided them with greater wealth and luxury, a way that left them in control.

In Malachi we have five areas mentioned where this relationship between the LORD and his people breaks down. These five areas don't only apply to our relationship with God, but are reflected in all our relationships and how we daily live.

The first attitude mentioned is to do with only giving your leftovers. If you only give your leftovers to a relationship what will you develop?

With the Olympics upon us we witness people who have given their best to achieve their best. How many Olympians would only train when they had

spare time, when they felt like it? None. You wouldn't make the Olympics if you were half-hearted. You certainly wouldn't win a medal.

Yet this is how Israel was treating their relationship with the LORD. Rough enough was good enough. If you had a lame animal then why not sacrifice it, but a healthy strong animal would bring good money at the market.

Thankfully in Jesus God doesn't give us his leftovers. In Jesus God has given us his best, he's given us his all. That after all is the sort of relationship he wants. God isn't interested in being half-hearted, he's passionate about you. He's invested himself 100%. He's been prepared to lose everything to win your love. That's God's gold medal, and he's only interested in gold.

He's only interested in giving his best for us.

I know I'm not only tempted to give God my second best but also those people closest to me. It is so easy to get my priorities back-to-front, to sacrifice my closest relationships only giving them second best because

Give Your Best

I've burnt myself out with what is second best. The most important part of life is to be loved and to love. To be loved by God and in Jesus to be able to love him back. To be loved by my family and friends and to love them back. There is nothing more important. This is top priority. This is where I'm to put in my maximum effort, because the gold in life is found in loving relationships, loving

relationships which are a reflection of the love God has for us in Jesus.

The Children of Israel stop going for gold, and God became a bore, they believed they had better things to do. Sadly these better things; their pursuit of wealth and the good life didn't yield very good dividends.

The second attitude mentioned is that they failed to honour the LORD.

They stopped looking to him for direction. They stopped worrying about what he thought and just went off doing what they thought was of most importance. And they did it in their own strength, using their own intelligence, achieving what they believed to be important. What the LORD said was important, or valuable had to take a back seat to what they wanted.

When we stop showing honour to another

person what will be the outcome for that relationship?

Sadly the Children of Israel stopped trying to listen to their God, let alone live life based on his power and authority. They were in the pursuit of the good life, and that was gained through wealth, greater profit margins, a higher standard of living. What their God had to say had no bearing on how they lived or what they valued and held as important.

How do we seek to show honour to Jesus, letting what he values shape our everyday living? How do we honour Jesus seeking to live life based on his power and authority, daily praying to him for the direction and strength we need for living?

The third attitude mentioned had to do with their morality, their sexuality. Here

their God plays no part. They were unfaithful. What happens to any relationship when people are unfaithful?

In Jesus God has come and united himself intimately with us. What an amazing bond of unity we have with God in Jesus. Jesus who is 100% man and

Be Faithful

100% God. What amazing faithfulness we have lived out in Jesus. Jesus who is faithful to the point of death. Jesus can be trusted with our lives because he is 100% faithful. That certainly is good news.

It's on this rock solid foundation that we can seek to live lives of faithfulness to God and to each other. In Jesus we have the strength to be faithful in every aspect of our lives.

The fourth attitude that Malachi mentions is summed up in this verse: "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, 'All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them'". (Mal 2:17) The Children of Israel has lost the ability to judge between what was right and wrong. Yes there is such and thing as right and wrong, and I don't determine it, and neither do you. God does!

And no matter how much I say something is OK. And no matter how much scientific research I do to prove my belief it never makes something that in God's eyes is wrong, right. Sadly the Children of Israel had lost their ability to make sound judgements about what was right and wrong.

Why, because they had stopped listening to