

# Messenger:

A Call to the Priests and  
People

Malachi 1:6-14

# Leaders Must Point People to God

6 The Lord of Heaven's Armies says to the priests: "A son honors his father, and a servant respects his master. If I am your father and master, where are the honor and respect I deserve? You have shown contempt for my name!" But you ask, "How have we ever shown contempt for your name?"

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to (253) 256-5302**

# The Heart behind Worship Is What Matters to God

7 “You have shown contempt by offering defiled sacrifices on my altar. “Then you ask, ‘How have we defiled the sacrifices?’ “You defile them by saying the altar of the Lord deserves no respect. 8 When you give blind animals as sacrifices, isn’t that wrong? And isn’t it wrong to offer animals that are crippled and diseased? Try giving gifts like that to your governor, and see how pleased he is!” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies . . .

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# The Heart behind Worship Is What Matters to God

11 But my name is honored by people of other nations from morning till night. All around the world they offer sweet incense and pure offerings in honor of my name. For my name is great among the nations,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 12 “But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it’s all right to defile the Lord’s table. 13 You say, ‘It’s too hard to serve the Lord,’ and you turn up your noses at my commands,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “Think of it! Animals that are stolen and crippled and sick are being presented as offerings! Should I accept from you such offerings as these?” asks the Lord.

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# The Heart behind Worship Is What Matters to God

Romans 12:1

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.

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# The Heart behind Worship Is What Matters to God

Hebrews 13:16

And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need.  
These are the sacrifices that please God.

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# The Heart behind Worship Is What Matters to God

Malachi 1:14

Cursed is the cheat who promises to give a fine ram from his flock but then sacrifices a defective one to the Lord.

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# We Need to Repent When Our Heart Is Hard toward the Lord

Malachi 1:9

“Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show you any favor at all?” asks the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 10 “How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “and I will not accept your offerings.

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# **Messenger:**

- **Leaders must point people to God.**
- **The heart behind worship is what matters to God.**
- **We need to repent when our heart is hard toward the Lord.**