

Participatory Worship

Malachi 1:6-14

The Israelites who had lost sight of God's love were challenged by God in the way they worshipped Him.

1. Perception Towards God vs. 6a

God challenged the Israelites in how they viewed their relationship with Him. The Israelites knew how a child should treat a parent or how a slave should treat the master. How much more should they honour the LORD with genuine worship that emphasizes who God is (their heavenly Father) and what He continues to do for them.

How do we view God? If our view of God is a misperception, our worship will never be one of rejoicing and our life will not represent our LORD God Almighty.

Questions:

- How does my perception of God impact my participatory worship?
- To honour or glorify the LORD is to acknowledge His attributes that can be seen in this world as His and His alone, and to acknowledge the reputation and praise that are rightfully His. (Psalm 29:1-2) Take some time and acknowledge God's attributes that cause your heart to praise His Name.

2. Privilege & Not A Burden vs. 6b-10

The people of God and the priests (the overseers of worship) no longer took God seriously, as they chose to no longer follow God's clear guidance on how to worship Him.

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God is given clear guidance found in His Word on how to worship Him. Worshipping God is a privilege. When worship is not from the heart, God will not accept our half-hearted efforts. (Romans 12:1-2)

Question:

- "Devotion" is a true love relationship, seeking to do the maximum for the beloved. Whereas "Duty" seeks the minimum; barely enough to meet an obligation. As God's people, is our commitment to the covenant relationship we have with God one of duty or of devotion?

3. Proclamation: God is Not Dependent on Us vs. 11-14

God is not dependent on Israel for whatever they are prepared to bring Him. Worship is for those who are impacted by knowing who God is and what He has done for us.

Our worship is not what will earn our salvation. We worship because we are saved by grace. Our hearts are so full of gratitude in who God is and He has done for us (John 3:16). How can we not have our lives worship God in how we live our lives (Romans 12:1).