

WHERE IS MY DUE?

Malachi 1:6 (NRSV) ⁶A son honors his father, and servants their master. If then I am a father, **where is the honor due me?** And if I am a master, **where is the respect due me?** says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests, who despise my name. You say, “How have we despised your name?”

It is such a sad fact that most of us Christians do not read the Bible in totality and many have not even read such books even once.

The prophetic books of the Bible captivate my heart for in them we find a glimpse of this passionate God, lamenting, defending, threatening, demanding, loving, hurting regretting....

Malachi is one such powerful book, reverberating with the wrath of God.

He thunders, “Where is My due, where is My honour, where is My respect, where where , where?

This is more relevant to us today than ever before.

Recently as I was searching for some pictures I came across a blog, where in the introductory note the writer had written this - I love chocolates and Jesus Christ but not necessarily in that order.

This sentence went into my heart like a sharp blade. Such a nonchalant and careless sentence. Putting the Lord of Lords and a chocolate in a same sentence whew!

One of the literary figures of speech often exploited by the great satirist Jonathan Swift, to ridicule the complacent lordly society of England, was bathos.

bathos ['beɪθɒs] a sudden ludicrous descent from exalted to ordinary matters or style in speech or writing (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/bathos>)

Some dire disaster, or by force, or slight;
But what, or where, the Fates have wrapp'd in night.
Whether the nymph shall break Diana's law,
Or some frail china jar receive a flaw:
Or stain her honour, or her new brocade;
Forget her prayers, or miss a masquerade;
Or lose her heart, or necklace at a ball;
(http://archive.org/stream/rapeoflock00popeiala/rapeoflock00popeiala_djvu.txt
)

In the above lines, taken from the famous mock epic, *The Rape of the Lock*, he speaks about some impending dire disaster and that disaster could be breaking Diana's law, ie losing one's virginity or breaking a china jar or to stain a woman's honour or her

dress. Putting both together in the same vein he highlights the frivolity of a courtly society where honour for them is like breaking a jar.

Even in today's society the boundaries between the sacred and the silly has become so blurred.

A Holy God is often addressed as a dude next door. Loving him is kind of equated to a chocolate.

What is wrong with us? Why do we take this Great God so lightly?

It is precisely because we take God for granted, that we sin quite easily.

Go back and read the book of Malachi, fully.

God is almost shaking His fist and asking of His people, "How dare you treat me like this?"

See His list of accusations :

you offer polluted food (corrupt money) on my altar 1,7 ;

by offering blind animals for sacrifice.1,8

ministering in My house for money. 1,10

married the daughter of a foreign God 2,11

faithless to your wife, when I had been witness to your marriage, 2,14.

Today there is more blatant sinning inside the house of God than elsewhere. Please note that this chapter one has the heading, *Corruption of the Priesthood* in NRSV Bible.

It is quite true. There is so much of misappropriation of funds in God's name. There is so much of adultery , extra marital relationships inside the house of God. And the consecrated ones commit all these sins with impunity.

Sin is not reproached in Church these days. Some worship leaders live in secret sin, yet singing great songs, thinking somehow God has to feel happy about their songs and God has to come and dwell in their song of praise.

Do not deceive yourself. It is an abomination to God.

The Holy God will avenge His Holy Name.

For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²But you profane it when you say that the Lord's table is polluted, and the food for it[£] may be despised.

The Lord hates adultery. Marriage is totally God's idea. He started it and He nurtured it. One man- One woman = children.

That is why today satan works so much against this concept of family instituted by God.

That is why we have so many alternate concepts : instead of husband and wife, today it's just a partner or a boyfriend or a lover or a one night date or a family of two men, two women. Anything is ok, but only the traditional marriage covenanted by God has become suffocating for modern masses. Pity.

Return to the Lord and He will turn to you.

That is why God declares that he hates divorce.

¹⁴You ask, "Why does he not?" Because the LORD was a witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵Did not one God make her?[£] Both flesh and spirit are his.[£] And what does the one God[£] desire? Godly offspring. So look to yourselves, and do not let anyone be faithless to the wife of his youth. **¹⁶FOR I HATE[£] DIVORCE,** says the LORD, the God of Israel, and covering one's garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So take heed to yourselves and do not be faithless.

The common denominator in relationships is faithfulness, loyalty. If there is no faithfulness in marriage then the covenant is breached. The same applies for our relationship to God. Most of us are in such breached relationships with God and the pity of it is that we are not aware that we have broken the trust.

That is why this Holy God is so passionately angry against Christians who live such decrepit lives, yet boast of this Holy God as their God.

Are we giving God His due?

Do we worship Him in Holiness?

Do we take His grace too much for granted?

More than what we do for the Kingdom, God is more concerned about whether our soul becomes more like Jesus every passing day.

What good would it do to your soul, running and working for ministry, yet harbouring the most vile, bitter, perverted sexual thoughts and acts in your life?

Will not the One who sees everything, see the dirt and turn away?

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

Let us worship God in the beauty of His Holiness and in the Glory due unto His Mighty Name. Amen.

Mercy Lord, we need your Mercy : Rahem, Rahem, Rahem...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_O3PnKB32c