

## **Our God Who Never Changes: Leading Churches and Families God's Way**

Why is it that leaders can cause so much hurt and destruction when they go astray? Malachi 2 unveils the unfaithfulness of Israel's leaders and warns of coming consequences. What mistakes did they make? What can leaders today learn from their bad example? In this session, we will examine Malachi 2:1-16 and be reminded of how essential it is to lead our churches and families in ways to honour God.

**Conrad Mbewe** has served as pastor of Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia since 1987. He is a graduate of the University of Zambia, the Cape Town Baptist Seminary, and the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Missions. He is the founding Chancellor of the African Christian University. He is a blogger and an author. His latest book is God's Design for the Church (Crossway, 2020). He is also the editor of the Reformation Zambia magazine. He is married to Felistas and they have 6 adult children and 6 grandchildren.

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Review
- B. Applying the lessons of this book to our hearts for self-examination

### **II. Pastoral Unfaithfulness (Malachi 2:1–9)**

- A. We often fail to glorify God in the world because of pastoral or eldership unfaithfulness.
- B. Here, God explicitly addresses the priests. He blames them for the state of Israel (v.1, 1:6).
- C. God says if they do not obey him, he'd curse them, their blessings, and their kids (v.2–3).
- D. God reminds the priests of the way Levi was a careful steward of the Covenant (v.4–6).
- E. God then shows what a priest must do and contrasts it with what they were doing (v.7–9).

- F. There is a sense in which all believers are now priests of God. So, this applies to all of us.
- G. Yet, the priests not only went from the people to God but officially from God to the people as teachers. In that sense, they represent pastors/elders of churches who are official church teachers.
- H. This is why we fail as a church to glorify God in the world. It is due to this unfaithfulness.
- I. At a horizontal level, we must be better examples in teaching God's people God's ways.

### **III. Marital Unfaithfulness (Malachi 2:10–16)**

- A. We often fail to glorify God in the world because we are failing him in marital fidelity.
- B. God shows it in two ways: (1) choice of marriage partner; (2) change of marriage partner.
- C. God, as Father, created them as one nation to uphold godly values for future generations. Yet, some of them sacrificed that on the altar of beauty and marriage to anyone (v.10–11).
- D. This resulted in them incurring the discipline of God that affected national progress (v.12).
- E. The 2nd reason for this discipline is because of their unfaithfulness in marriage (v.13–14).
- F. God has made marriage of his people to be the nursery bed for godly offspring (v.15a).
- G. Guard your spirit because this can only happen in a truly godly home of love (v.15b–16).

- H. Too many children hate Christ because of the way their fathers treat their wives at home!

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

- A. If the church in Europe is not advancing in its gospel enterprises, should we blame God?
- B. Only if we are leading our churches and families in God's way according to the Bible!
- C. Our lack of spiritual progress may be a chastisement of God on his people. Are you guilty?
- D. Are you as a pastor or elder or leader in your church faithfully teaching the flock of God?
- E. Are you as a pastor or elder or anyone else handling marriage in a godly honouring way?
- F. Where it is evident that you are not doing so, make a beeline to Calvary for forgiveness.
- G. Resolve that, with the help of the Spirit, you will lead your church/family in God's way.