

Malachi 2:1-9

In faith, we often say that God's Word is truly important. And because the Word is important, listening is also essential. Malachi 2:1-9 contains warnings and judgments toward the priests. God points out how they have shown contempt for Him through the way they listen to His Word.

The priests, who were supposed to be the messengers of the Lord and teach His Word (v.7), once had the law of truth in their mouths, no unrighteousness on their lips, walked with God in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin. Yet, in verse 8, their sin was that they caused people to stumble. In verse 9, because the priests did not keep God's Word, the people acted corruptly. As a result, they became despised and humiliated.

First, The Word is the channel of blessing.

Through the Bible, God tells us that living according to His Word is our blessing (Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 1:1-2). God is the source of blessing, His Word is His will, and He Himself is the Word—therefore, His Word itself is a blessing.

We may think that blessing means getting what we want or desire, but true blessing is living according to God's Word. Departing from the Word means departing from blessing, which leads to a path of calamity and curse. The Israelites in Malachi's time treated God's Word—the channel of blessing—as insignificant, and as a result, they received curses and contempt instead of blessings.

Second, Keep God's Word in your heart.

The problem with Israel's priests was not simply that they failed to read or teach the Word. Their real problem was that they did not keep God's Word in their hearts. They heard it, but only superficially, treating it lightly.

In verse 2, God says that if they do not listen and take it to heart to honor His name, He will send a curse upon them. Twice in this verse, it is mentioned that they did not take it to heart. Listening to the Word requires attentive hearing—not just passive reception.

To hear God's Word and keep it in your heart means listening intentionally, with an open and good heart, focusing, deciding to obey, and sensing God's heart as your own through His Word.

Third, Attentive listening glorifies God.

Hearing God's Word with your heart glorifies Him. In verse 2, the word “glorify” comes from the Hebrew “kabod,” meaning “weighty” or “heavy,” signifying honor and importance.

Lastly, remember this: God is a God who attentively listens to us. Earthly kings do not listen to their servants in such a way; even if they refer to their words, they rarely listen with their whole heart to respond. But God truly is great—He respects and values us. May we keep His Word in our hearts and glorify Him, in the name of the Lord.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night.” (Psalm 1:1-2)

**Bible
Reading**

8/11(Mon)	8/12(Tue)	8/13(Wed)	8/14(Thur)	8/15(Fri)	8/16(Sat)	8/17(Sun)
Isaiah 42-44	Isaiah 45-48	Isaiah 49-51	Isaiah 52-55	Isaiah 56-59	Isaiah 60-63	Isaiah 64-66

QT

Quiet Time Passage

8/11(Mon)	8/12(Tue)	8/13(Wed)	8/14(Thur)	8/15(Fri)	8/16(Sat)	8/17(Sun)
Ezekiel 16:15-34	Ezekiel 16:35-52	Ezekiel 16:53-63	Ezekiel 17:1-10	Ezekiel 17:11-24	Ezekiel 18:1-20	Ezekiel 18:21-32

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share the grace you have experienced in your life through last week's message or your personal devotional (QT) time.

2. What new insights or grace did you receive through today's message?

3. Reflect on whether you are listening to God's Word and keeping it in your heart, and pray together for a restored faith that reveres God.