

“In what way...”
Malachi 3:13-14
By Russ Earl

Thesis:

1. Have you loved us (**1:2**)
 - a. God declares his love for the people, and by this love He seeks to bring home to the hearts of His hearers their own ingratitude and lack of devotion toward Him.
 - b. **1:2b**, Does the Lord love the faithful? (**Psalm 37:25a**)
2. Have we defiled your name? (**1:6**)
 - a. In response to their question God charges the priests with offering polluted bread on His altar because they were responsible for the sacrifices.
 - b. The priests only reply was “in what way have we defiled you?”
 - i. **Psalm 111:9** – holy and awesome (reverend –KJV)
 - ii. Too many have forgotten that God deserves our very best
3. Have we wearied you? (**2:17**)
 - a. By claiming the “evil” are still right in the sight of God
 - b. Or perhaps they say God will not judge them on certain matters (“where is the God of judgment”)
 - c. The Lord begins cleansing (**3:1-2**).
4. Have we robbed you? (**3:8**)
 - a. These individuals were robbing God – in this situation, it was their sacrifice they were giving to God.
 - b. No doubt we can rob God in other ways – not giving the time we should to the church, not helping with evangelism, etc
 - c. **Mal 3:9-10** what will happen if they do as they should?
5. What have we spoken against you? (**3:13**)
 - a. The people said it was “useless” to serve God (**3:14**).
 - b. Some have allowed the world to implant such ideas as these others have simply grown cold and unfaithful to God.

II. How does the attitude of “In what way...” affect us still today?

1. This is an attitude of “how can I be wrong, or how can this be wrong?”
2. Have we been selfish
 - a. In our approach to worship
 - b. In our approach to leadership
 - c. In our approach to the work of the church?
 - d. **Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 5:20b**
3. Such an attitude requires repentance (**Mal 4:1-2**).

Conclusion:

1. What about you? Do you have this attitude or a similar frame of mind?
2. Such a viewpoint is displeasing to God? Are you ready to repent?

3. Full Invitation