



Connection Group Participant Guide

October 24, 2021

Malachi 2:10-17

Teaching Point 1. They dishonored God by marrying unbelievers (vv. 11-12). The command from God not to do this was clear (Deut. 7:3). This action was treacherous against God. It was treacherous toward their brothers because they gave a bad example to others. It was treacherous toward the Jewish ladies, because it put them in an awkward position of not having a Jewish man to marry. Brothers today who marry unbelievers are committing a similar type of treachery against their Christian sisters.

Application: This sin is serious. Even Solomon was led astray by his idol-worshiping wives. Do not become ensnared by this temptation. Make up your mind to only date and marry a believer (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

Teaching Point 2. You cover the altar with tears – The Jews were sorry that God didn't accept their offering (much like Cain in Genesis 4). But their sorrow did not lead to true repentance. They wanted the blessings and joy and approval from God but weren't willing to put Him first in their lives so that they could get those things. Remember that God blessed those who obeyed Him in the Old Testament. Here they wanted God's blessings, but without the obedience.

Application: If you are seeking something for yourself outside of God's will, you cannot have it and God's approval. The only way to get what you want and what God wants is to want what God wants. Psalm 37:4 - *Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.* They were not delighting themselves in the Lord. Are you? Which is more important to you, getting what you want or God's approval?

Teaching Point 3. Verse 16 – What more needs to be said? You can justify it, excuse it, minimize it all you like, but none of that changes the fact that God hates divorce. It is not His design. It is not His plan. It is not His will. It is treachery against God in front of whom the vows of marriage are made. It is treachery against the spouse. It is a terrible testimony to the world. It hurts the children. It hurts both husband and wife. It tarnishes the name of Christ.

Application: Each one of us must again and again renew our commitment before God not only to “not get divorced,” but to truly honor God with our marriages and use our influence among our friends and relatives to encourage them to honor God with their marriages. Marriage has never in the history of the world been under as much attack as it is today. Satan is winning the battle around the world. Do not give him one inch of victory in your marriage. Rather than aiming to “not get divorced,” partner with God to make your marriage the best that it can be.