

An underwater scene with sun rays filtering through the water. In the foreground, a scroll with text is unrolled on a rock, with two rolled-up scrolls nearby. The background shows a rocky underwater landscape.

# DEEP DIVE

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

May 2026 - June 2026

**REV. AARIF G. BRADLEY, M. DIV**

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## LESSON 4

SUNDAY MAY 24, 2026

# A CALL TO FAITHFULNESS

Malachi 2:10–16

### KEY VERSE

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#### | KJV

Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant. Malachi 2:14

#### | NIV

You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the Lord is the witness between you and the wife of your youth. You have been unfaithful to her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Malachi 2:14

### LESSON AIMS

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As a result of this lesson, you should be able to:

1. Understand how faithlessness affects both our relationship with God and others
2. Recognize the seriousness of breaking covenant commitments
3. Commit to living with integrity and faithfulness in everyday life

## KEY TERMS

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- Faithless / Treacherous – Acting unfaithfully or breaking trust
- Covenant – A binding, sacred commitment before God
- Profane – To treat something holy as common
- Altar – The place of worship and sacrifice
- Companion – A close partner in relationship, especially in marriage
- Divorce – The breaking of a marriage covenant

## INTRODUCTION

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Faithfulness is at the core of every meaningful relationship. Whether with God or with people, trust is built on consistency, integrity, and commitment.

In this passage, the issue is not ignorance, it is faithlessness. The people of Israel were still religious, still bringing offerings, still engaging in worship. But beneath the surface, they were breaking covenant in how they treated one another, especially in marriage.

Malachi exposes a hard truth that you cannot be right with God while being careless with the commitments He has established. This section connects two things' people often separate: spiritual life and relational integrity. God makes it clear that they are not separate.

### | Analysis of the Biblical Text

#### ONE FATHER, ONE COVENANT (MALACHI 2:10)

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### | KJV

Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

## | NIV

Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?

The passage begins with a foundational truth of one God, one Creator and one covenant people. Because of this truth, their actions toward one another are not just personal they are spiritual. Yet they are dealing treacherously with each other. In other words, they are breaking trust within the very community God established. Faithlessness toward others is ultimately a violation of our relationship with God.



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Where might you be inconsistent honoring God in some areas, but not in how you treat people?

### PROFANING WHAT IS HOLY (MALACHI 2:11–12)

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## | KJV

- 11 Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god.
- 12 The LORD will cut off the man that doeth this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob, and him that offereth an offering unto the LORD of hosts.

## | NIV

- 11 Judah has been unfaithful. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves by marrying women who worship a foreign god.
- 12 As for the man who does this, whoever he may be, may the LORD remove him from the tents of Jacob even though he brings an offering to the LORD Almighty.

Here, faithlessness takes a specific form they are entering relationships that pull them away from God. This is not so much about ethnicity as it is about spiritual compromise. These marriages

exposed a deeper issue that their loyalty to God was being compromised, and His covenant was no longer their priority. What makes it worse is that they are still bringing offerings while living in contradiction to God's commands. Religious activity does not cover relational and spiritual compromise.

## BROKEN WORSHIP CONNECTED TO BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS (MALACHI 2:13)

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### | KJV

And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.

### | NIV

Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer looks with favor on your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands.

The people are emotional in worship. They are crying, weeping and seeking God's favor, but God is not responding. Why? Because their worship is disconnected from how they are living. God does not separate worship from the way we treat people. Vertical reconciliation requires horizontal reconciliation. True worship requires us to reconcile our grievances with God's people.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How might broken or neglected relationships be affecting your connection with God?

## GOD AS WITNESS TO COVENANT (MALACHI 2:14–15)

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### | KJV

14 Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth...

15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed...”

## | NIV

14 You ask, ‘Why?’ It is because the LORD is the witness between you and the wife of your youth...

15 Has not the one God made you? You belong to him in body and spirit. And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring...”

God answers their question directly and He says He has been watching their unfaithfulness. Marriage is described as a partnership, a covenant and something God Himself witnesses. They were abandoning lifelong commitments for personal desire, ignoring the sacredness of what God had joined together. God takes covenant relationships personally. He is not distant from them, He is involved. He is the primary covenant participant.

## A STRONG WARNING AGAINST FAITHLESSNESS (MALACHI 2:16)

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## | KJV

For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away... therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

## | NIV

The man who hates and divorces his wife,’ says the LORD... ‘does violence to the one he should protect,’ says the LORD Almighty. So be on your guard, and do not be unfaithful.

God closes with a direct and personal command: Guard your spirit, and do not be faithless. This shifts the focus from outward behavior to inward condition. The problem is not just what they were doing it is what was happening within them.

At the heart level, something had already changed. Their actions by way of broken commitments, unfaithfulness, and disregard for covenant were simply the visible evidence of an inward drift. Faithlessness does not always begin with a single decision; it begins when the heart slowly

becomes less anchored, less attentive, and less committed to what God has required. To guard your spirit means to watch over your inner life with intention: watch what you allow yourself to justify, what you begin to tolerate and what you stop valuing the way you once did. Because long before a commitment is broken publicly, it has already been weakened privately.

This is why God addresses the spirit and not just behavior. If the heart is neglected, actions will eventually follow. But if the heart is guarded which means it is kept aligned with truth, conviction, and reverence, then faithfulness will be sustained, even when it is difficult. The warning is clear that if you do not guard what is happening within you, you will not remain faithful in what God has entrusted to you. Faithfulness, then, is not maintained by willpower alone, but by consistently tending to the condition of your heart through the word of God.

### | A Closing Thought

The central issue in this passage is not just broken relationships it is broken faithfulness. The people believed they could maintain a relationship with God while neglecting their responsibilities to others. Malachi makes it clear that this is not possible. Faithfulness is not selective and it cannot exist in one area and be absent in another. God is not only concerned with what we do in worship, but with how we live in relationship with others because ultimately, the two reveal the same heart.

### | Your Life

Take an honest look at your commitments and ask are there areas where you have become inconsistent or careless? Are you honoring the relationships God has placed in your life? When we take commitment seriously it means you keep your word, even when it is difficult, address areas of compromise instead of ignoring them, and ultimately stay consistent in both private and public life. Live in a way that shows your commitments matter not just to you, but to God because they do!

### | Your World!

We live in a culture where commitment is often treated as temporary and conditional. Relationships are easily discarded when they become inconvenient. But God calls His people to something different. He calls us to consistency over convenience, commitment over feelings, and faithfulness

over our self-interest. When believers live faithfully, it stands out. It reflects the character of a God who keeps His covenant no matter what. Of course this doesn't mean we won't make mistakes. It means that when (not if) we do, we are quick to repent. Quick repentance is a sign of faithfulness and commitment to God!



### Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Help us to be faithful people in every area of our lives. Where we have been inconsistent, correct us. Where we have broken trust, lead us to restoration and reconciliation. Teach us to honor the commitments we have made and to live with integrity before You, and in the relationships that we share with others. Guard our hearts from becoming careless and strengthen us to walk in faithfulness even when it is difficult.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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