

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 March..... Nahum 1-3..... Don't Mess with God
 2) 08 March..... Zephaniah 1-2..... Everyone is Accountable
 3) 15 March..... Zephaniah 3..... Our Great Salvation
 4) 22 March..... Obadiah 1..... Compassion for Lost People
 5) 29 March..... Zechariah 1-12..... The Promised Messiah
 6) 05 April..... Luke 24:1-12..... The Declaration
 7) 12 April..... Luke 24:19-35..... The Promise Fulfilled
 8) 19 April..... Zechariah 13-14..... A Refined People
 9) 26 April..... Habakkuk 1-2..... Hard Questions, Hard Answers
 10) 03 May..... Habakkuk 3..... Awestruck
 11) 10 May..... Haggai 1-2..... Seek God First
 12) 17 May..... Malachi 1..... True Hope
13) 24 May..... Malachi 2..... Faithful
 14) 31 May..... Malachi 3-4..... A Pure People

INTRODUCTION

- God tells the spiritual leaders that the gloves are coming off. God will turn their blessings into cursings, and will rub their faces in excrement. God threatens tough treatment to provoke repentance.
- If you think about it, the bulk of this chapter deals with the marriage covenant, and how some men callously treat the wife of their youth
- Some very godly and mature Christians are in a divorced / remarried situation. Thank God since He doesn't want to throw anyone away.
- Per God's standards, being divorced and remarried may not be His ideal situation, but in the "Age of Grace" it is a workable situation, and it is not "detestable" nor "abominable" as are homosexuality, bestiality, and, as depicted in this chapter, for a Jew to be married to an idolater.
 - ♦ Recall that adultery once warranted the death penalty.... [Lev 20:10](#)
 - ♦ Also remember, Jewish lineage was at stake through the father's line, not the mother's (i.e., "Who's Your Daddy" syndrome)
- Other points to ponder about a broken marriage:
 - ♦ From an OT perspective, for a Jewess to return to her 1st husband after she's been with another man "pollutes the land" [Jer 3:1](#)
 - ♦ The NT is clear that when a marriage dissolves, the parties should either reconcile or remain single [1Cor 7:11](#)
 - ♦ In all cases, for someone to marry another while their previous spouse is alive is adulterous – There are no exceptions to this

Passage	Comments
Malachi 2:1-9	<p>When Will They Learn???</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God holds the spiritual leaders accountable for the spiritual health of His people • Unfortunately, the priests were very accommodating to their own sins and to the sins of the people • vv2-3. God promised to turn their blessings into cursings because they didn't take Him and His word seriously; And the worst part, God promised to corrupt their seed (rape & dispersion), and spread dung upon their faces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This probably occurred when God allowed the Jews to suffer under one conquest after another, including under Nazi Germany • vv6-7. The purpose of spiritual leaders was to show God's people how to live at peace with God and enjoy a life without sin – for they are "God's messengers" • v8. Unfortunately, they chose to "depart" from God • v9. <i>"Therefore have I also made you contemptible and base before all the people, because you have not kept my ways, but have [twisted] my law"</i> • Have we learned anything from the mistakes of others? • How can we stop repeating the same mistakes?
2:10-13	<p>Bad Sins vs Detestable Sins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. <i>"A detestable thing has been done."</i> There are bad sins, then there are detestable or abominable sins. Sexual sins such as homosexuality and bestiality are an abomination to God – as well as for a Jewish man to marry a woman who does not worship God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The issue at stake was not race-mixing, but faith-

Passage	Comments
	<p>mixing. Marriage to a believing non-Israelite was OK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joseph married an Egyptian Gen 41:45 2. Boaz married Ruth (Moabite) Ruth 1:4; Mt 1:5 3. Moses married a Midianite and an Ethiopian/Cushite Num 12:1 4. Salmon married a Canaanite Josh 6:25; Mt 1:4,5 <p>• vv12-13. The tears of the people fell on deaf ears because there was no sincere or honest repentance</p>

Points to Ponder from 1Corinthians 7. From a NT perspective, where a Gentile believer is married to another believer or even to an idolater (e.g., Atheist, Buddhist, etc.) Paul states that the Lord commands the spouse(s) to stay married ([7:10](#)). When an unbelieving spouse wants to depart, the believing spouse is "not under bondage" or obligated to keep the marriage together ([7:15](#)) – but, the spouse is "bound" to the marriage as long as the other spouse lives ([7:39](#)). Hence, the command to remain single ([7:11](#)). Any other scenarios adulterates God's pure design for marriage – Hence the term, "**ADULTERY**"

2:14-17	<p>MEN – WAKE UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14-16. When the people asked "WHY" they revealed the depth of their spiritual ignorance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ MEN – WAKE UP! If you mistreat your wife, your prayers will go unanswered 1Peter 3:7 • v17. When we keep calling evil good (e.g., it is OK to ignore or modify what God says) then we "weary" God
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CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- If God hates divorce ([2:16](#)), shouldn't we take every step imaginable to save marriages from such a fate?
- God wants His people to take marriage seriously because it mirrors our relationship with Him
- "BUT", some may say, "we need to show love to everyone"
- BUT, shouldn't we have more love for God and His word, to the point where "we hate mother and father" in comparison?
 - ♦ This may mean we need to challenge some friends and family before they go through a divorce or an adulterous remarriage; and we may have to decline attending their 2nd & 3rd weddings and explain why – That attending or taking part in such a wedding shows we condone their ways over God's ways, and more importantly, it reveals our contempt for God's word
- **Recall.** John the Baptist lost his head over this marriage issue when he challenged 2 Gentile non-believers for their unbiblical marriage (Herod & Herodias, Mark 6). God's timeless moral code for marriage was for Jews & non-Jews, believers & non-believers, alike.
- For more on this subject, see lesson for [Ezra 07-10](#)

NEXT WEEK: Malachi 3-4. When you compare OT tithing commands we realize NT giving practices are totally different. In fact we have no curses levied on us for not giving. We are blessed for giving, but we incur no blessings & no curses if we fail to give.



"If you are so dead-set against gambling, how come you're still in the marriage business?"