***SERMON NOTES***

**Already, But Not Yet**

**A Sermon Series Through The Book of Malachi**

**“Jesus: The True and Better Priest”**

**Malachi 2: 1-9**

**In Malachi, the people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had the land and the promises of God’s restoration - but still - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ had all of the promises of God come to pass.**

**The priests were charged and given the good responsibility of being God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the people.**

**To be called to be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meant a calling to the highest level of moral integrity and personal holiness because they were representing God and His holiness to the people.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is serious about sin and He is serious about His holiness.**

**The priests’ turning away from God had not only corrupted themselves but because the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin are so far reaching, it had also caused the people to stumble.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is never in isolation and solely personal. It always affects others and will often have crushing consequences.**

**The goal of any discipline from God is for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The priests failed. The people failed. You and I fail. But Jesus Christ succeeded as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ priest of God.**

**Application**

**This passage teaches us that God is serious about sin and He is serious about His holiness. If we are to be serious about God and serious about what He has done for us then we too must be serious about sin and His holiness. The priest and the people of Malachi’s day had failed and the truth is you and I are failing too: Are you not just as sinful as the people here? Is your heart not just as rebellious and prone to go through the motions of mechanical worship as theirs’?  Are you one who always walks uprightly with God and following what He has commanded? No wrong found in your mouth or on your lips? Is God not just as holy as He was then?  What hope do you have for yourself to be made right before God?  What can you offer Him? What can you do to make yourself right with Him - goats and bulls will not do it - so what will you offer? Whatever the answer is, it will not do unless your reply is Jesus Christ.**

**Jesus is the true and better Levi; the true and better priest; the true and final sacrifice needed and that is the only hope for the people of Malachi and for you and I.**

**Jesus has given Himself for you and He stands ready to receive you with open arms; come to Him though you have nothing. Come, for He is the offering.**

***Blanks: already & not yet; representatives; priest; God; affects; Sin; restoration & repentance; true***