

Small Group Discussion Questions

Series: Offering What Matters

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: A Heart of Corruption

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Memory Verse: Malachi 3:8 NIV

Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'" In tithes and offerings.

The goal of these questions is to foster meaningful discussion and to encourage participants to reflect on God's Word and lead to heart transformation. Feel free to modify or expand upon these questions based on the dynamics and needs of your Small Group.

Big Idea: Artificial religion reveals a heart of corruption.

Read Malachi 2

1. The Lord specifically addresses the priests with a warning (v 1). Who were the priests? What is 1 Peter 2:5-9 conveying when it talks about the priesthood of all believers? While not performing temple rituals, how do believers today function in a similar way as priests?
2. The behavior of the priests indicated that their public roles had become disconnected from their private devotion. They no longer honored the name of the Lord (vv 1-2). In your roles in the home, at work or elsewhere, is your heart ever distant from the "work" you are doing? When you do something "for God," how often do you evaluate if your heart is seeking His honor versus seeking your own?
3. Levi walked with God in peace and uprightness (v 5). Internal peace often comes from living an upright life. What are some alternate ways some people will seek peace? How have you experienced true peace flowing from a life of integrity and walking closely with the Lord? Do you currently feel like you are "walking with God," or does it feel more like you are "performing Christian



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duties?" What is the difference in the way those two paths feel internally?

4. Levi showed reverence to the Lord and stood in awe of His name (v 5). When was the last time you felt truly in awe of God? What sparked that feeling? What tends to dull your sense of awe toward God? How do busyness, routine, or distraction affect your ability to see God's greatness?
5. True instruction is valued and stands in contrast to wrong things that may come from our mouth (v 6). In a world where truth is often relative, how can we respectfully elevate the true instruction that comes from God's Word? What helps you stay grounded in true instruction when cultural norms shift or when God's truth feels unpopular?
6. Sin is what separates us from God, and Levi turned many from sin (v 6). Bringing believers or unbelievers to repentance helps them develop in their relationship with Christ, but it is rarely easy. In what kind of environment(s) do you feel you can safely be honest about your struggles? Are you leading by example and sharing with a trusted individual about the dark or gray places in your life? When someone shares their sin with you, what should the response look like?
7. While Levi walked in fairness (v 6) the current priests are being partial. They are likely showing favoritism or softening the truth for people of wealth or influence (v 9). When have you been tempted to edit your convictions to avoid awkwardness or to stay liked by a certain group of people? How can we grow in boldness so that we are the same people regardless of who is around?
8. He connects our relationship with God directly to how we treat our "brother" (v 10). We tend to compartmentalize our lives, thinking we can be good with God while harboring bitterness or neglecting the people in our community. How might your interactions with a difficult person change if you consciously viewed them as someone created by and made in the image of God before you spoke to them? In what ways does harboring bitterness or resentment affect your spiritual life, even if no one else sees it?



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