

Challenging God with Foolish Questions

(Malachi)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever seen a child show contempt for parents who have only done good for that child?
 2. Our reaction often includes thinking or saying something like, “Why, of all the nerve!”
 3. Parents aren’t the only ones who are treated disrespectfully.
 4. Sometimes, our disrespect reaches all the way to God.
 5. Let’s examine how, on one occasion, God decided to answer the disrespectful questions of his people.

I. In What Way Have You Loved Us?

- A. (Malachi 1:2).
- B. God chose them to be his people (Malachi 1:2).
- C. (John 3:16; 15:13) What is the message of the cross?

II. In What Way Have We Despised Your Name?

- A. (Malachi 1:6).
- B. They offered him defiled sacrifices (Malachi 1:7-8).
- C. Do we ever offer to God that which costs us little to nothing?

III. In What Way Have We Wearied You?

- A. (Malachi 2:17).
- B. They accused God of being unfair (Malachi 2:17).
- C. How many times have we asked the question, “Why me?”

IV. In What Way Have We Robbed You?

- A. (Malachi 3:8).
- B. They did not give their tithes and offerings (Malachi 2:8).
- C. Have we ever robbed God, by not giving?

V. What Have We Spoken Against You?

- A. (Malachi 3:13).
- B. They said it was useless to serve God (Malachi 3:14).
- C. Have we failed to appreciate and acknowledge God’s providence?

- Conclusion:
1. The people in Malachi’s day needed lessons in humility, thanksgiving and repentance.
 2. Are our needs any different today?
 3. We too need lessons in humility, thanksgiving, and repentance.