

## Giving God The Leftovers

Malachi 1:6-14

[Matthew 6:33]

Jesus is challenging us in this verse to have the **right priorities** - seeking first His Kingdom

This comes from having the **right perspective**,  
...which result in having the **right pursuits**  
and ends with the **right promise** of all the things we need being added to our lives.

### Leftover Life

- Most want to end up in heaven...they just don't want to think about it *TODAY!*
- Most of us probably don't have as much time as we think

Like Felix in Acts 24:25, lots of people are waiting for what they think will be a more convenient time.

Time is not on our side: **Ephesians 5:16**

### Left Over Worship

*Outward Worship* (Mal. 1:6) - the key is the inner reality NOT the outward rituals

- *in Spirit*

- *in Truth*

[John 4:24]

### Cheating God (v. 7)

God deserves the best and we give Him the worst.

*His Suggestion* - v. 8:

If God isn't worth worshiping above anyone or anything else, only one thing is left to do. --- **Verse 10**: Just shut the gates!

Illustration: What if we used the same excuses for attending sporting events as we do church?

1. Every time I went, they asked for money.
2. The people I sat next to didn't seem friendly.
3. The seats were too hard and not comfortable at all.
4. I went to many games but the coach never came to call on me.
5. The referees made decisions that I couldn't agree with.
6. The game went into overtime and I was late getting home.
7. The band played numbers I'd never heard before and it wasn't my style of music.
8. It seems the games are always scheduled when I want to do other things.
9. I suspect that I was sitting next to some hypocrites. They only came to see their friends and they talked during the whole game.
10. I was forced by my parents to attend too many games when I was growing up.

**Verse 11** - God has to point out to them who He is because they seem to have forgotten!

**Ignorant Worship (Verse 12)** - They didn't seem to understand the significance of what was going on.

**Tiresome Worship (Verse 13)** - They said it was such a weariness...it's too hard to serve the Lord.

It is strange that we have time for everything else (especially the things we really want to do), but we do not have too much time for God.

How many of us really and truly feel that our problem in life is that we spend too much time seeking Him and His Kingdom? How many of us really spend too much time in church?

**Accursed Worship (Verse 14)** - This the end result of just going through the motions and giving God only the leftovers of our life.

#### APPLICATION

- Realize & Understand the significance.
- Spend time with Him every day.
- Be Ready! (physically, mentally & spiritually)
- Slow down & listen to Him!

#### **What If....?**

What if God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday?

What if God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we did not follow Him today?

What if we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain?

What if God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?

What if God took away the Bible tomorrow because we would not read it today?

What if God took away His message because we failed to listen to His messenger?

What if the door of the church was closed because we did not open the door of our heart?

What if God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?

What if God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?

What if God answered our prayers the way we answer His call for service?

What if God met our needs the way we give Him our lives?