



Living a Life of Blessing #2 | September 18, 2016

Icebreaker: Have you ever been blessed by good leadership? Please explain.

READ MALACHI 2:1-9.

1. Recall from Malachi 1 why God was harshly rebuking the priests.
2. From Malachi 2:4-7, what should godly leadership look like? How do you think people are blessed by this kind of leadership?
3. From Malachi 2:2, 8-9, what does destructive leadership look like? What is the result for those who are following?

JESUS, THE PERFECT PRIEST

4. Contrast the leaders in Malachi's day with Jesus. Read Hebrews 2:17 and 4:14-15.

What are some specific ways Jesus satisfied the answer to question 2 above?

Pastor John Piper says:

Christ has opened the way for all of us to come directly to God through him. We do not need any human mediator. We can walk with Christ—our high priest—right into the Holiest Place where God dwells and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

desiringgod.org/messages/the-curse-of-priestly-failure

5. For believers, what is the result of Christ's perfect obedience? Read the following verses (and refer again to the Hebrews verses noted in question 4).

Romans 5:19

2 Corinthians 5:21

6. Jesus is unlike any other leader! You have His perfect obedience credited to your account. What difference should that make to your day-to-day life? (This is a question to consider for the rest of your life!)

HOW ABOUT YOU?

7. The New Testament calls the whole church a *holy priesthood*. That's us!

Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9 and Revelation 1:6, noting:

- a) the purposes for this priesthood and
- b) how these purposes are an influence or blessing for others.

8. Read Romans 12:1-2 in light of your role as a member of this "priesthood."
It's a lifelong process, but what are some specific ways we can encourage and challenge each other along the way?

PRAY

Take it further: Read Malachi 3:1-5. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?