

# **MARRIAGE AS BEING SACRED**

**MALACHI 2:10-16**

# RECOGNITION OF SIN

Danny Glover in *“Grand Canyon”*:  
“Man, the world ain’t s’pposed to work like this. Maybe you don’t know that, but this ain’t the way it’s s’pposed to be. Everything’s s’pposed to be different that whait it is here.

# SECULARIZATION

“Secularization is the **transformation** of a society from close identification with **religious** values and institutions **toward nonreligious** (or irreligious) values and secular institutions.”

A major issue in the study of secularization is the extent to which certain trends such as decreased attendance at places of worship **indicate**... religious beliefs no longer play a dominant role in public life or in other aspects of decision-making.”

# SECULARIZATION -b

“Secularization is sometimes credited **both** to the cultural shifts in society following the emergence of **rationality** and the **development of science** as a **substitute for superstition** – Max Weber called this process, “the **disenchantment of the world**” – and to **the changes** made by religious institutions **to compensate**.

# SECULARIZATION -c

At the most basic stages, this **begins with** a slow transition from oral traditions to a writing culture that diffuses knowledge. This first reduces the authority of clerics as the **custodians of revealed knowledge**. **As the responsibility** for education has moved from the family and community to the state, two consequences have arisen:

1] the collective conscience as defined by Durkheim is diminished; and

2] through the fragmentation of communal activities, religion becomes more a matter of individual choice rather than an observed social obligation.

# MALACHI 2

<sup>10</sup> Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, **profaning the covenant** of our fathers? <sup>11</sup> Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has **married the daughter of a foreign god**. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD cut off from the tents of Jacob **any descendant** of the man who does this, who brings an offering to the LORD of hosts!

# MALACHI 2b

<sup>13</sup> And this second thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because **he no longer regards the offering** or accepts it with favor from your hand.

<sup>14</sup> But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD **was witness** between you and the **wife of your youth**, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your **companion** and your **wife** by covenant.

# A GOD DESIGNED HELPER

## Proverbs 31:

- <sup>10</sup> An excellent wife who can find?  
She is far more precious than jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> The heart of her husband trusts in her,  
and he will have no lack of gain.
- <sup>12</sup> She does him good, and not harm,  
all the days of her life.

# MALACHI 2c

**<sup>15</sup> Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God **seeking? Godly offspring.** So guard yourselves in your spirit, and let none of you be faithless to the wife of your youth.**

**<sup>16</sup> “For the man who **does not love his wife but divorces her,** says the LORD, the God of Israel, covers his garment with violence, says the LORD of hosts. So guard yourselves in your spirit, and do not be faithless.”**

# SECULARIZED PEOPLE

<sup>17</sup> You have **wearied** the LORD with your words. Yet you say, “How have we wearied *Him*?” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and He delights in them,” or, “Where is the God of justice?”



# FAILURE OF THE LORD'S MESSENGER

“And now, **O priests**, this command is for you.

<sup>2</sup> If you will not listen, if **you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name**, says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I **have already** cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. <sup>3</sup> Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. <sup>4</sup> So shall you know that I have sent this **command** to you, **that my covenant with Levi may stand**, says the LORD of hosts.

# SECULARIZED PRIESTHOOD

<sup>8</sup> But **you have turned aside** from the way. **You have caused many** to stumble by your instruction. You have **corrupted** the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts, <sup>9</sup> and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

## MALACHI 2c

**<sup>5</sup> My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name. <sup>6</sup> True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. <sup>7</sup> For **the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is **the messenger of the LORD** of hosts.****

