

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

Malachi

“Return to Me and I will Return to You”

Setting:

- the people of Israel have been back in Judah for nearly 100 years – they have experienced little outward prosperity
- in their hearts and in their actions they have departed from their covenant with God

Malachi

“Return to Me and I will Return to You”

Faithless Behavior:

1. Specific Sins

- Defiled worship
- Treacherous Behavior
- Robbing God

2. Origin

- They failed to see and sense the greatness of God; they lost their fear and honor of Him

“Treacherous Behavior”

- “treachery” = a violation of faith, betrayal of trust; to break an agreement by unfaithfulness

General Sense

- They are acting faithless toward each other
- By virtue of their relationship to God, they have a covenant relationship with each other
 - Community life is supposed to be ordered by trust, honor, and faithfulness

“Treacherous Behavior”

Specific Behavior

1. Mixed Marriages

- They are marrying idolatrous women from the surrounding pagan cultures (Nehemiah 13:23-27)
- “treachery and an abomination” – no regard for the purity of Israel or the honor of God
- *Principle:* the marriage of a believer to an unbeliever profanes the holiness of God and leads to spiritual ruin

“Treacherous Behavior”

Mixed Marriages: Application

“Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship have light and darkness?

Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols?”

-- 2 Corinthians 6:14-16

- *Resolve in your mind right now to never marry any one that does not love the Lord Jesus with all his heart*

“Treacherous Behavior”

Specific Behavior

2. Divorce

- **“I hate divorce”** – summary of God’s attitude
- **Why does God so hate this act of treachery?**
 - (1) **“your companion”** – marriage is the most sacred and intimate of all human relationships
 - (2) **“your wife by covenant”** – He views marriage as a covenant between husband and wife; He is the witness!

➤ **“What *God has joined together*, let no man separate”**

“Treacherous Behavior”

Divorce: Application

1. To those who have experienced divorce:

- **God’s grace is sufficient; divorce is not an unpardonable sin**

2. To those who are married:

- **Do not divorce your covenant spouse; guard your heart from the path of divorce**
- **God is a witness of your marriage covenant and your vow-keeping or vow-breaking**