

Malachi 2:17

*"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?'"*

In Malachi's day Israel has already returned to the land, rebuilt the city walls and restored the Temple in Jerusalem. But Israel, as many would say of our nation, had fallen into complacency. As the people pursued their own agendas and satisfactions, they drifted further and further from God and from the mandates of the Law. The results of such a lifestyle were predictable: religion was at low ebb while wickedness prospered. It is only natural for us to wonder where the righteous justice of God is when the wicked seem to prosper and the people of God are in need?

If we are honest with ourselves, we can fall into the same pit as the Israelites did. When we look around our own personal lives we feel that God doesn't seem to be answering our prayers, or at least doing it in the way that we would like Him to. We're not seeing God save our loved ones the way we long to see it happen, maybe we haven't seen God heal us or another in the way that we feel is our right. We feel that we've been in the hour of need, and God has said: *'Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will answer you'* - but He hasn't. For so long we have heard so many people, like the Psalmist, saying to us: "Where is your God?" We're perhaps beginning to say to ourselves as Gideon did, *"Where is our God that our fathers told us of? Where are the miracles that they spoke to us of?"*

Jesus spoke of the same condition in the Sermon on the Mount, the hearts of people who have become far-sighted. We see the splinter in our brother's eye but fail to see the plank in our own eye. We are swift to see sin in another and not in ourselves, but the awful terrible truth of this whole book is they are swift to accuse God of apparent injustice without seeing their own sin! They accused God of a lack of holiness, a lack of justice, and can't see their own sin was the very cause of their lack of blessing. They were ignorant of God's charge against them, and even question God, not themselves. They question God's holiness, they question God's righteousness, and they actually ask the question back to God: "In what way have we wearied You?"

Could it be possible that sometimes our words weary the Lord? Is it a possibility in the church era our songs and even our prayers weary the Lord? I have seen the picture of the church sign which reads, "If you could only hear your prayers, you would sympathize with God." You might say, "What could weary God in my prayer or worship?" It is simply this: the people were drawing near to God with their mouths, and honoring Him with their lips, but their heart was far from Him! Consider these things in your lives this morning as you prepare for worship, receiving the teaching of the Word and the celebration of the Lord's Table as see where your heart is this morning.