

### **Recap of 8/28/16 (Malachi 2:13-14):**

1. In Malachi 2:13-16, Malachi addresses a second disorder among the Israelites, that of divorcing their older wives and marrying younger women (perhaps the pagan wives mentioned in 2:10-12).
2. Reversing the pattern of the previous section (vv. 10-12), Malachi begins with the consequences (in vv. 13-14) and then identifies the sin behind the consequences (in vv. 15-16). As a consequence of abandoning their wives, the Israelite men were engaging in a great emotional display because God was no longer responding to their worship and sacrifices. Because of their spiritual obtuseness they didn't connect their sin with this silence from God. In an interesting parallel in the New Testament (1 Peter 3:7), Peter warns husbands that to not treat their wives with consideration was to invite God's silence in response to their prayers. Proverbs 5:15-20 warns against abandoning the "wife of one's youth."
3. In the book **Tender Warrior** by Stu Weber, he writes of his marriage: "Linda and I married just over a quarter century ago, and we had not a whit of an inkling of what those twenty-five-plus years would bring... When we stood together at the altar that sunny afternoon, we couldn't have guessed a tenth of it. But we didn't need to. We made a promise. We recited a vow. Out of the whole world, we chose each other. And the power of that choice, that promise, has kept us. There is no question in either of our minds that we could find a 'better mate.' Does that surprise you? It shouldn't. There is always someone out there better than you. There will always be someone more beautiful, intelligent, wealthy, witty, competent, sensitive, or sensual. But that's a nonissue to Linda and me. The toxin of comparison has been utterly neutralized and washed away by the sacred anti-toxin of a **promise.**"
4. Marriage is also a partnership. "According to God's original design, marriage was a permanent relationship, and a man was instructed to leave his parents and cling to his wife. In the words of Gen. 2:24, 'They shall become one flesh.' Something of this unity is seen in the word companion [partner] which means 'joined together, united.' ...It implies harmony, a desire to work together to achieve life's greatest goals while sharing all the hardship, the pain, and the joy. In every sense of the word husband and wife should be inseparable. (Mt. 19:6)." (Herbert Wolf)
5. Think about your own marriage. What have you and your spouse shared? Been partners in? Children, education, a home, joys, sorrows, illnesses, business, advancements, memories, intimacy, etc.? That's the partnership of marriage which divorce throws away.