

Recap of 9/11/16 (Malachi 2:15):

1. Larry Richards provides a good summary of the book of Malachi to this point: “God’s people have become indifferent and unresponsive (Mal. 1:6-2:16). Malachi points to actions that support God’s charge. The people offer God broken-down animals as sacrifices, the priest view serving in the Temple as a burden, and the people are unfaithful to their spouses. If the people of Judah truly honored God in their hearts, their attitudes and actions would be very different in deed....People who care deeply about pleasing God are recognized by the lives they live, not by the words they speak.”
2. Three central passages in Scripture deal with the issue of divorce: Deut. 24; Matt. 19:3-9 and Mark 10:2-9. Deut. 24 regulated divorce in the Old Testament. It was given for a woman’s protection and to protect against “frivolous divorce” and “to put divorce in a bad light.” Deut. 24 was given to control divorce not to promote it and to discourage it not encourage it. In the Matthew and Mark passages Jesus reiterates the original intention for marriage as expressed in Genesis 1:27; 2:24; 5:2: a monogamous, heterosexual, lifelong union. Jesus strengthens this view by adding “they are no longer two but one” and “what God has joined together let man not separate.” He lists one thing that can break that oneness (and thus the marital bond) and that is adultery. Paul adds a second thing that breaks the marital bond in 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 and that is when two unbelievers marry and one becomes a Christian and the unbeliever does not wish to continue the marriage the believer is to let them go. In each case remarriage is permitted.
3. One of Malachi’s concerns is for the children in these homes that were being torn apart.
4. Of the effect of divorce on children, James Dobson writes: “In study after study now, we are seeing that divorce, single parenting, and family disruption are unhealthy for children. This is not to criticize those who find themselves in those circumstances, but neither can we continue to deny that intact, two-parent families are the most healthy and contribute directly to a stable society....The future of the nation depends, quite literally, on millions of strong, committed, and loving families.” **(Solid Answers)**