

# NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Sermon: The Fullness of The Time Pt 1

Topic: Contemptuous Attitude

Scripture Text: Galatians 4:4–7

12/03/2017

**“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents but being one”**

**Pastor Diggs**

**Galatians 4:4–7 (NKJV) 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

The Intertestamental Period.

Approximately 400 year between the OT and the NT

Malachi was a prophet who lived about 500 – 460 BC. His ministry was during the years after the Jews came out of exile from Babylon. His contemporary’s included Nehemiah and Ezra.

His ministry was to shake the people out of their spiritual disobedience lethargy and to warn them that Judgment was coming unless they repent.

I will just mention three categories the Malachi was preaching against was mainly directed toward the priest.

*Malachi 2:7–8 (NKJV) 7 “For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. 8 But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” Says the Lord of hosts.*

When our religious leaders begin to compromise, officiate, ignore truth and support evil this trickles down to contaminate the people.

The Priest showed contempt for:

### **God’s altar -**

*Malachi 1:6–8 (NKJV) 6 ... To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, ‘In what way have we despised Your name?’ 7 “You offer defiled food on My altar, But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’ 8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the Lord of hosts.*

### **God’s Glory**

*Malachi 2:1–2 (NKJV) 1 “And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. 2 If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name,” Says the Lord of hosts, “I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart.*

### **Unfaithfulness of the people and Intermarrying with Pagans**

*Malachi 2:11 (NKJV) 11 Judah has dealt treacherously, And an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, For Judah has profaned The Lord's holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god.*

### **Failure to bring their tithes to the Lord**

*Malachi 3:8 (NKJV) 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.*

Let me bring just these few points into the New Testament Era where we no live.

### **Contempt for God's Altar –**

*Matthew 5:23–24 (NKJV) 23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

### **Contempt for God's Glory –**

We are guilty of showing contempt for God's glory when we give glory to “good Luck”, “Right place at right time” even placing the names of large donors for building or wings. The church is God's house and all honor and Glory we can muster goes to Him.

### **Intermarrying with Non-Believers**

*2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) 14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

### **Failure to bring their tithes to the Lord**

*2 Corinthians 9:7 (NKJV) 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Now you may be asking how is this a Christmas message?

Malachi was preaching repentance to the people to turn from their wrong ways.

But he also warned them in a prophecy concerning Jesus.

*Malachi 3:1 (NKJV) 1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts.*

Note: the preaching of repentance was done by the last prophet mentioned in the last book of the OT.  
*Malachi 3:7 (NKJV) 7 Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the Lord of hosts. "*

And ironically in the fourth book of the NT the prophet John the Baptist (in the spirit of Elijah) was preaching repentance also.

*Malachi 4:5 (NKJV) 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

The Gospel of Luke confirms this.

*Luke 1:17 (NKJV) Speaking of John the Baptist. - 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord*

*Matthew 3:1–2 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> *In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!”*

For 400 years there is no recorded words from God or from His prophets. It does not mean that God did not have a messenger during that time to warn them. There are some Jewish Historical books that fill in some of the gaps during those years.

I believe that through the Law, the scriptures and the prophets, God has spoken. He does not have to keep repeating himself.

The people complained that it was useless to serve God because the arrogant seem to be getting all the blessings and the evil get rich.

*Malachi 3:14–15 (NKJV)* <sup>14</sup> *You have said, ‘It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, And that we have walked as mourners Before the Lord of hosts? 15 So now we call the proud blessed, For those who do wickedness are raised up; They even tempt God and go free.’ ”*

To that I say

*Galatians 6:8–9 (NKJV)* <sup>8</sup> *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

<sup>1</sup>

Today we are waiting on God’s fullness of time for the return of Jesus. Not as a little baby in a manger but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

END

Message Scriptures: Galatians 4:4–7, Malachi 2:7–8, Malachi 1:6–8, Malachi 2:1–2, Malachi 2:11, Malachi 3:8, Matthew 5:23–24, 2 Corinthians 6:14, 2 Corinthians 9:7, Malachi 3:1, Malachi 3:7, Malachi 4:5, Luke 1:17, Malachi 3:14–15, Galatians 6:8–9

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ga 6:6–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.