



**THE VOICE BEFORE THE SILENCE**



# The Voice Before The Silence

Jerry Tallo  
Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014

“And now, O priests, this command is for you. 2 If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. 3 Behold, I will rebuke your offspring, and spread dung on your faces, the dung of your offerings, and you shall be taken away with it. 4 So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that my covenant with Levi may stand, says the Lord of hosts. 5 My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared me. He stood in awe of my name.

True instruction was in his mouth, and no wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts. 8 But you have turned aside from the way. You have caused many to stumble by your instruction. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts, 9 and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, inasmuch as you do not keep my ways but show partiality in your instruction.”

# THE VOICE BEFORE THE SILENCE

**Q: What is God so upset with now?**

**Week four: corruption of the covenant**

**A: In chapter one: they polluted the offerings**

**now: they compromise scripture**

**\* they don't instruct in God's Word**

**\* they misguide the people through false teachings**



# THE VOICE BEFORE THE SILENCE

**Q: How did they ‘corrupt the covenant of Levi?’**

**A: Numbers 25: 1-13**



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**Q: What did Israel do to break the covenant?**

**A:**

**First – they pursued idolatry**

**Second – they pursued immorality**

**Point: if the culture cannot take us out, it will seek to absorb us into its ways, through subtle appeals to our autonomy**



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**Q: What are some examples today?**

**A: Defining my worldview (why am I here?)**

**Redefining my view of sin**

**The entitlement Gospel**



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**Q:** So what does Phinehas' extreme behavior have to do with all this?

**A:** It highlights the 'no compromise' responsibility of the preacher

**Preaching of the Gospel sometimes offends (not the speaker)**

**Preaching is God's tool for killing idolatry in us**

**If the sunday sermon never 'offends', there is something wrong?**



**Q: Does the New Testament support this?**

**A: Yes – 2 Timothy 3: 16-17**



**Q:** so, does this stuff happen when i hear a sermon?

**A:**

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**If not, what could be the problem?**

**\*If a sermon never attacks my sin, something is wrong**

**\*God's covenant is still in place: so are my responsibilities**

**\*If i am not called to it, i should quit it**

**\*God's jealous that we take the pulpit seriously**

**\*I should probably get zeal for the Holy Scriptures**

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## Malachi 2:1-9

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