

Put Me to the Test

Malachi

by Don Falkos

copyright 2018 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

The Lord said to the people of Israel, "I have always loved you. My love brought you, the descendants of Jacob, through exile and back home. But look at Edom, the descendants of Jacob's brother Esau. They and their mountain fortress have been shattered, and they will never be rebuilt."

The Lord said to the priests, "You have shown contempt for me. You offer blind, diseased, crippled animals for sacrifice. If you were to offer such animals as a gift to your governor would he be pleased? Of course not! Well I'm not pleased with them either. I would prefer you offer nothing at all. Where is your integrity? Where is your devotion? I expect your best."

The Lord said to the unfaithful men of Israel, "Why do you marry a foreign woman who persuades you to worship idols? Why do take vows with your wife but then divorce her for no reason? Marry a devout woman, and do not be unfaithful to her."

The people accused God of neglect. The Lord replied, "I will send my messenger, the prophet Elijah, to prepare the way, and the Messiah you are waiting for will suddenly appear. Those who cheat others, who oppress widows and orphans, who deprive immigrants of justice, will receive exactly what they deserve; while those who have remained faithful to me will experience joy and freedom.

"Turn back to me. Do what is right. Give generously to keep my Temple in operation. See if I won't open the floodgates of heaven and pour out for you a blessing far beyond your needs. Go ahead! Put me to the test!"