Title: **"IF THEN I AM THE FATHER, WHERE IS MY HONOUR"**
Text: **Malachi 1**

## (I) SIGNIFICANT EXPRESSIONS OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP AS FATHER

**1. Love of a Father**

*"I have loved you," says the LORD…"* ***Malachi 1:2a***

a) Choice

b) Commitment

**2. Relationship with God established**

a) Father

b) Master

## (II) SAD AND SINFUL RESPONSES TO GOD

**1. Doubting God's Love**

*"…In what way have You loved us?..."* ***Malachi 1:2b***

**2. Despising God's name**

*"…To you priests who despise My name…"* ***Malachi 1:6g***

**3. Defiance expressed**

*"…Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' "* ***Malachi 1:6h***

**4. Defiling of Worship**

*"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.' "* ***Malachi 1:7***

**5. Dishonouring of the Lord**

*"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 favourably?'*
*Says the LORD of hosts.' " **Malachi 1:8***

## (III) SERIOUS WORD OF ADMONITION

*"A son honours his father,*
*And a servant his master.*
*If then I am the Father,*
*Where is My honour?*
*And if I am Master,*
*Where is My reverence?..." **Malachi 1:6***

**1. Standard social protocols of life**

    a) In the Family

    A son must honour his father

    b) In Society

    A servant must revere his master

**2. Serious religious problems addressed**

    a) God should be honoured by His children but He is not

    b) God should be revered by His servants but He is not

## (IV) SEEKING TO RELATE TO GOD APPROPRIATELY

**1. Recognising the Greatness of God**

*"For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down,*
*My name shall be great among the Gentiles,*
*In every place incense shall be offered to My name*
*And a pure offering;*
*For My name shall be great among the nations,'*
*Says the LORD of hosts." **Malachi 1:11***

## 2. Returning to God

*"But now entreat God's favour;*
*That He may be gracious to us…"* **Malachi 1:9**

a) God's favour is needed

b) God's grace is also badly needed