

# Malachi 1:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

## Analysis

**And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.** God specifies the defective sacrifices: **the blind** (עִוֵּר, ivver), **the lame** (פִּסְעָה, pisseah), and **sick** (חֹלָה, holeh) animals—all explicitly forbidden by Torah (Leviticus 22:20-24, Deuteronomy 15:21). The rhetorical question **is it not evil?** (הֲאֵין רָע, ha'ein ra) emphasizes the obvious wickedness. רָע (ra) means evil, bad, wicked—not merely inappropriate but morally wrong.

God's devastating comparison follows: **offer it now unto thy governor** (הִקְרִיבְהוּ נָא לְפֶתֶחְךָ, hakrivehu na lefəḥatekha). פֶּתַח (peḥah, governor) refers to the Persian governor ruling Judah. Would the priests dare offer such defective gifts to their earthly ruler? **Will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person?** (הֲיִרְצֶךָ אוֹ הַיִּסָּא פָנֶיךָ, hayirtzekha o hayissa fanekha). Obviously not—human governors demand respect; how much more the King of heaven?

This argument exposes the priests' hypocrisy: they gave human authorities what they withheld from God. They feared man more than God, valued human approval above divine favor. This reversal of priorities characterizes all false worship—using God while serving self.

## Historical Context

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Persian governors controlled Judah during the post-exilic period. The priests, as intermediaries between Jewish community and Persian authority, understood protocol for approaching rulers. No one would insult a governor with defective gifts—doing so risked punishment. Yet these same priests insulted the sovereign LORD with blind, lame, and sick animals. Their hypocrisy revealed distorted priorities: they feared earthly consequences but not divine judgment. Jesus confronted similar hypocrisy in religious leaders who tithed herbs while neglecting justice and mercy (Matthew 23:23), who honored God with lips while hearts remained far from Him (Matthew 15:8).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does comparing our worship to what we'd offer human authorities expose our true priorities?
2. In what areas might we fear man's disapproval more than God's, showing more respect to earthly powers than to our heavenly King?
3. What does it reveal about our theology when we give God less than our best while reserving excellence for other pursuits?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכִי H3588	תִּגְּשׁוּ H5066	עִוְרִים H5787	לְזִבְחִי H2076	אִם H369	כִּי H7451	יִשְׁכַּח H3588
And if ye offer	the blind	for sacrifice	is it not evil			
וְכִי H5066	תִּגְּשׁוּ H6455	פִּסְחִים H2470	וְחִלְהֵם H369	כִּי H7451	הַקָּרִיב H7126	אֶת H4994
And if ye offer	the lame	and sick	is it not evil	offer		
לְפָנֶיךָ H6346	וְהִרְצֶיךָ H7521	אִם H176	הִישָׁא H5375	כִּי H7451	יִשְׁכַּח H3588	אֶת H4994
it now unto thy governor	will he be pleased	with thee or accept	thy person			
אָמַר H559	יְהוָה H3068	צְבָאוֹת H6635				
saith	the LORD	of hosts				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 15:21** (Sacrifice): And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

**Jeremiah 14:10** (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

**Hosea 8:13** (Sacrifice): They sacrifice flesh for the sacrifices of mine offerings, and eat it; but the LORD accepteth them not; now will he remember their iniquity, and visit their sins: they shall return to Egypt.

**Psalms 20:3** (Sacrifice): Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.

**Job 42:8** (Sacrifice): Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my

servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

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