

Malachi 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity.

Analysis

The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. God describes faithful priestly ministry. **The law of truth was in his mouth** (תּוֹרַת אֱמֶת הָיְתָה בְּפִיהוּ, torat emet hayetah befihi)—תּוֹרָה (torah, law/instruction) and אֱמֶת (emet, truth) characterized faithful teaching. **Iniquity was not found in his lips** (וְעוֹלָה לֹא-נִמְצָא בְּשִׁפְתָיו, ve'avlah lo-nimtza visefatav)—עוֹלָה (avlah, iniquity/perversity) was absent. The faithful priest taught truth without corruption.

He walked with me in peace and equity (בְּשָׁלוֹם וּבְמִישׁוֹר הֵלַךְ אִתִּי, beshalom uvi shor halakh itti)—his life matched his teaching. מִישׁוֹר (mishor, equity/uprightness) describes moral integrity. The result: **did turn many away from iniquity** (וַיָּשִׁיב הָרַבִּים מֵעוֹן, verabbim heshiv me'avon). הָשִׁיב (heshiv, to turn back/restore) indicates effective ministry—faithful teaching produced repentance. This is the priesthood's ultimate purpose: turning people from sin to God.

Historical Context

The faithful priest combined right doctrine (truth in mouth) with right living (walking in peace/equity) to produce right results (turning many from sin). This threefold standard appears throughout Scripture: teachers must embody what they teach (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, James 3:1). Paul told Timothy to watch

both doctrine and life (1 Timothy 4:16). Effective ministry requires both. By Malachi's time, priests taught falsehood and lived corruptly, causing many to stumble (v. 8). Christ fulfilled this prophecy perfectly—He is truth incarnate (John 14:6), sinless in life (Hebrews 4:15), and turns many from unrighteousness through His gospel (Acts 26:18, 1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse establish the threefold standard for faithful spiritual leadership: sound doctrine, godly life, fruitful ministry?
2. What does it mean to 'walk with God' in peace and equity?
3. How should the goal of turning people from iniquity shape our teaching and discipleship?

Interlinear Text

תּוֹרַת	אֱמֶת	הַיְהוָה	בִּפִּי	יְהוָה	וְעוֹלָה	לֹא	נִמְצָא
The law	of truth	H1961	was in his mouth	and iniquity	H3808	was not found	
H8451	H571		H6310	H5766		H4672	
בִּשְׁפָתַי	בְּשָׁלְוָם	וּבְמִישׁוֹר	הָלַךְ	אֶת־	רַב־	יָם	
in his lips	with me in peace	and equity	he walked	H854	many		
H8193	H7965	H4334	H1980		H7227		
יָשׁוּב	מֵעוֹלָה						
and did turn	from iniquity						
H7725	H5771						

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 12:3 (Parallel theme): And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Revelation 14:5 (Parallel theme): And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Jeremiah 23:22 (Word): But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

Acts 26:18 (Sin): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Luke 1:6 (Word): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Psalms 37:30 (Parallel theme): The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.

Matthew 22:16 (Truth): And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Genesis 17:1 (Parallel theme): And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

Genesis 6:9 (Parallel theme): These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

Luke 20:21 (Parallel theme): And they asked him, saying, Master, we know that thou sayest and teachest rightly, neither acceptest thou the person of any, but teachest the way of God truly: