**Going through the motions, or giving our very best? (Mal. 1:6-2:9)**

Feeling cheated

How does God feel?

The privileged one

The questions we’ll explore this morning

* so that don’t repeat / will repent

**1. How might we try to cheat God?**

Introduction of issue (v.6)

Pushback (v.6b)

The objective evidence: what’s left in the fridge! (v.7)

Insulting the host

Sacrifices – whatever! (v.8, cf. Deut. 15:21)

Going through the motions

What is worship?

What are you giving God?

Not free to worship however we like

How God labels these kinds of actions (v.8)

“What a burden!” (v.12-14)

What’s going on in my relationship with God?

Never pleased with outward forms (v.9)

**2. What happens when we try to cheat God?**

Shut the doors! (v.10)

Curse your blessings! (2:2)

**3. What should we be doing, instead of trying to cheat God?**

Listen and honour his name (2:2), reflected in godly priesthood (2:5-7)

“Life and peace” (2:5)….only in the Great High Priest (2:6).