

MALACHI

Week 6

OVERVIEW

"I have loved you." This refrain from the second verse in the prophecy of God to Malachi (Judah) is the heartbeat going on throughout the entire book. God's redeeming love both woos and warns us - it is both a comfort and a challenge. Through this book, God has argued with His people who have fundamentally turned their backs on Him in some distinct ways. But through it all, God declares His love for His people. In this last section of Malachi, we'll take a look at Chapter 4 and see how it ties back - not only to the rest of God's story of redemption in the past, but see how it bridges forward to us today.

KEY QUESTIONS:

How are you fearing and remembering the power of the Lord in your life today?

DISCUSSION

READ Malachi 3:16-4:6 out loud as a group

OBSERVATION:

- What is the overarching message of 3:16-18?
- What is the overarching message of Chapter 4?
- What claims are made in this text?
- What conditions are there "If... then..."?
- Who are these conditions for?

INTERPRETATION:

- What other examples in Scripture are there of people who "feared God"?
- What does it mean to "fear God"?
- Why is it important for God's people to remember through story and writing?
- What connection was there in fearing God and developing the book of remembrance?
- What is "the day of the Lord" alluding to? (cf Zechariah 14, Acts 2:14-21)
- How are the people who fear God promised to experience this day?

INTERPRETATION

- How are people who do not fear God promised to experience this day?
- How does this help us better understand what it means to “fear God”?
- Why is it important that Malachi alludes to “the law... and the prophet[s]”? (v4-5)
- Read Matthew 5:17-20
 - What does this passage help us understand about Jesus' relationship to the Law and the Prophets?
- Read Matthew 22:36-40
 - What does this passage help us understand about the Law and Prophets?
- Read Romans 3:20-31
 - What does this passage help us understand about the role of the Law and Prophets for believers in Jesus?

APPLICATION:

- In what ways do you remember what God has done for you?
- How do you help others know God through this?
- In what ways have you learned about the Law (Torah) and Prophets (Nevi'im) through Malachi?
- In what ways do we practically “fear God” in our day?
- How are you fearing God in your life?

NEXT STEPS

- Enjoy your Christmas Break
- LEADERS: Winter Leader Gathering is the week of Jan. 5 (normal day/time of your group)
- ALL OTHERS: Come back the week of January 12 for our new series “Right in God's Eyes”