"Malachi: Love & Apathy"

Malachi 1:1-29

Pastor Jim Oakley – August 5, 2018

Because of God's faithful covenant love, we faithfully give Him our best.

1) You are loved (v. 1-5)

2) Don't neglect to give your best (v. 6-14)

3) Faithfully honor His name (v. 2:1-9)

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK: Malachi 2:10-16

Discussion Questions

ICEBREAKER: What is the longest you have kept a promise? What was the promise? What was the shortest time you kept a promise? If comfortable sharing, what was the promise?

1) According to verse 2, how would you describe the state of faith of the people of God?

2) Why would they question His love?'

3) How can we understand God's "love" for Jacob contrasted with his "hate" for Esau?

4) How does God loving Jacob, compared to Esau, relate to how He loves these people?

5) Read Leviticus 22:17-31.

6) Why did God want the best from the flocks and not just accept any animal that was sacrificed?

7) Malachi was written 100 years after Babylonian captivity, after which Ezra and Nehemiah rebuilt the temple and the city walls. What do you suppose happened to cause them to let the temple and the city fall into disrepair and their worship become so poor?

8) Discuss how you would define "giving God your best" as a believer today.

9) What did the Priests do, or fail to do, to compromise the covenant with Levi?

10) How do we avoid apathy and show honor to God's Name in our worship today?

11) How will you give God your best this week?

12) How can we pray for you?