



Gospel Community Study Questions

Malachi | Looking Back - Looking Forward

Key Passages: *Malachi 3:6-4:6*

Big Idea: *Faithfulness to God is sustained by looking back to our redemption and forward to our redeemer*

Read

Read Malachi 3:6-4:6

Background

Malachi is a prophetic word from God to his people who've returned from exile to Jerusalem around 430BC. The temple and city walls have been rebuilt and there is a lot of religious freedom under Persian rule, but God's people are still living in the midst of a pagan culture and they're struggling to remain faithful to God.

Discuss

Take some time to share what the Spirit has been teaching you through the book of Malachi over the last few weeks.

In v16-12 passage this week, the Lord calls out the failure of his people to be distinctive in their generosity. Take some time to discuss the ways the generosity of God's people should look different to the world.

How does the Lord say he will respond to the generosity of his people and what can we learn from this passage in stewarding our own resources?

In v13-14 the Lord calls out their lack of contentment in the Lord. How might our lack of contentment and lack of generosity be connected? See if you can share some personal experience in this area. What does a right contentment in God look like - how can we help one another cultivate this?

In the rest of the passage, a remnant of God's people turn back to the Lord in repentance. With their repentance, God gives them the promise of 4:2. How is this promise fulfilled in Christ and what hope/help does this give us when we struggle to be faithful to God.

Pray

Take some time to pray that Jesus would help us as a church to be marked by our faithfulness to him.

Coming Up

Next week we're back in Mark's Gospel in Mark 4:1-20