

## Majoring in the Minors

### Week 11 outline

8-31-25

## Malachi

### Starting At the Right Place: God Loves You

#### I. Malachi Background

- A. Name means “My Messenger”
- B. Written between 440–400 BC, post-exile, after the Temple was rebuilt, contemporary with Ezra & Nehemiah
- C. Israel was apathetic, corrupt, and impatient for God’s promises
- D. Structure: a series of arguments/questions between God and Israel

#### II. God’s Declaration of Love (Malachi 1:1-2)

- A. “I have loved you,” says the LORD
- B. God’s love is the foundation of the covenant
- C. God has loved us, does love us, and will continue to love us

#### IV. Israel’s Response: “How Have You Loved Us?” (Malachi 1:2-3)

- A. They accuse God of not loving them
- B. God reminds them that he has chosen them.
- C. ***God Doesn’t Love Me***

#### V. Contempt for God’s Name (Malachi 1:6-8)

- A. Priests offered blind, lame, and diseased sacrifices
- B. Sacrifice was meant to “draw near” to God, not be convenient leftovers
- C. Their worship became performative and selfish
- D. ***God Has Wronged Me***

#### VI. Questioning God’s Justice (Malachi 2:17; 3:13-15)

- A. “Where is the God of justice?”
- B. Accusing God of blessing the wicked
- C. ***God Doesn’t Care About Me***
- D. ***Serving God is Useless***
- E. The progression of disbelief:
  - God Doesn’t Love Me
  - God Has Wronged Me
  - God Doesn’t Care About Me
  - Serving God Is Useless
  - I’ll Live Life My Own Way
  - The fruit of this path: destruction, selfishness, and pain

#### VII. God’s Promise of Refining (Malachi 3:1-3)

- A. God will send His messenger to prepare the way (John the Baptist)
- B. The Lord will come to purify like refiner’s fire and launderer’s soap
- C. We cannot cleanse ourselves; Christ makes us holy (Ephesians 5:25-27)
- D. Jesus is our only hope, the one who makes us clean

### **IX. The Correct Diagnosis: God Loves Me**

- A. Starting here changes everything
- B. Three life-changing truths:
  - 1. It changes our perspective through hardship – God is with us (Hebrews 4:15)
  - 2. It changes our response – repentance brings forgiveness and refreshment (Acts 3:17-19)
  - 3. It changes our way of life – serving God gives life and purpose (Romans 12:1-2)

### **X. Conclusion**

- A. Israel misdiagnosed God's love and fell into apathy and sin
- B. We must begin with the truth: **God Loves Me**
- C. The progression of belief:
  - God Loves Me
  - I've wronged God
  - God cares about me
  - Serving God gives me life & purpose
  - I surrender my life completely
  - The fruit of this tree is security, peace, and joy
- D. Surrender your life completely to the God who loves you