



“GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS” WEEK 1: MALACHI 1:1-5

Read Passage together:

Malachi is the last of the twelve Minor Prophets and likely wrote in the 5th century B.C., after the Israelites returned from Babylonian exile. The people had rebuilt the temple, but their spiritual condition was slacking and marked by corruption and disobedience. At the time, Israel was struggling with unfaithfulness to God. The people were bringing flawed sacrifices, doubting God's love, and were just going through the motions of worshiping Him. Malachi's message confronts their lack of honor toward God and calls them back to covenant love, faithfulness and devotion to Him.

Watch this video by the Bible Project for an overview of Malachi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPGShWZ4Jvk>

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever questioned or doubted God's love for you, especially during difficult times? What does this passage teach you about the unchanging nature of God's love for His people?
2. How can you remind yourself daily of God's love for you, even when you don't feel it or when circumstances make you question it?
3. God's choice of Israel was not based on their merit but on His sovereign will. How does this truth shape your understanding of God's plans for your life?
4. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to trust God's plan or His timing? How can you surrender these areas to His sovereign control?
5. In verse 4, Edom (Esau's descendants) is judged for its pride and defiance. How can we guard against similar pride or rebellion in our own hearts, especially when we feel we deserve more from God or others?
6. Is there an area of your life where you are resisting God's authority or refusing to repent? What is God calling you to surrender?
7. The judgment of Edom reveals God's greatness, even to people outside of Israel. How can you live in such a way that others see God's glory through your life?
8. What are some specific actions you can take this week to honor God's name and reflect His greatness to those around you (family, friends, coworkers)?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Baptism Sunday is November 24. If you would like to take your next step please let Pastor Stanley know.