

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
6/7/23

Passage Summary

This past Sunday we finished up the book of Malachi by focusing on the summation in Malachi 4:4-6. The six disputations of the book are succinctly summed by the command and the promise found in these few verses. Three of the six disputes in the book related to the commands of God found in the Torah while the other three of the disputes centered upon the future fulfillment of God's promises.

Malachi 4:4-6

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

Discussion Questions

Put your trust in the commands of God

2nd dispute – Obedience must come from a heart of love

Malachi 1:10

¹⁰ Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.

Why did God say that He would not accept an offering from the hand of the Israelites and that He had no pleasure in them?

What might be some offerings that we give to God in which He would take no pleasure?

3rd dispute – Obedience must come from a heart of loyalty

Malachi 2:11

¹¹ Judah has been faithless, and abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem. For Judah has profaned the sanctuary of the LORD, which he loves, and has married the daughter of a foreign god.

What are some reasons that the men of Judah would marry women who worshipped foreign gods?

Why would a person's spouse be an issue of loyalty to God?

Does God care anymore who someone marries?

5th dispute – Obedience must come from a heart of trust

Malachi 3:10

¹⁰ Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

If God does not need our money then why does He make such a big deal of it in this passage?

What are some examples of other obedience issues that reveal our trust?

Put your hope in the promises of God

1st dispute – You have seen the work of God

Malachi 1:2–3

² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob ³ but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.”

What are some work of God in your life that gives you confidence that God will fulfill His promises?

4th dispute – You have learned the character of God

Malachi 3:2

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

In what ways have you seen God remain consistent to His character in Scripture? In what ways have you seen God remain consistent to His character in your personal life? How can this provide confidence for the future?

6th dispute – You have been taught the plan of God

Malachi 3:18

¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Why do we struggle to accept the plan of God to deal with evil?