

Bible Discussion 35: Love and Return

Text: Malachi 1:1-5; Malachi 3:7-12

Purpose: Believe in God's unfailing love for us and continue to return to Him daily.

Opening Question: *When was the last time you lost something? (Car keys, sunglasses, tv remote, etc.)*

Resources: [Summary and Outline](#) / [Malachi Overview Video](#)

Read and Discuss: Malachi 1:1-5

The prophet Malachi writes the words of God to His chosen people who have gone astray. God reminds His people of His unfailing love for them, the people question His love. Looking at their imperfect life situations they are unable to see God's love. God explains how He has loved them and has always been devoted to them throughout history. He gave His love to Abraham and to Jacob's descendants. God has chosen them and has never stopped loving them since day one.

1. *What keeps you from fully experiencing God's love for you daily? (Difficult life situations, unmet expectations, lack of gospel understanding, etc.)*
2. *God will keep loving His people no matter what. What does that tell you about God? What does that do to your view of God?*

Read and Discuss: Malachi 3: 7-12

God was loving His people, but there was no response by the people. They were too consumed with tasks, challenges, and life in front of them to see God's love. The priests were not treating the sacrifices to God seriously. Animals with blemishes were being sacrificed even though the law demanded animals without defect. Instead of giving God their best, they started sacrificing animals that had disease and defects. The people had stopped tithing, giving their best 10% back to God (Lev. 27:30;32), their offerings were cheap. In spite of the people turning away from God and giving cheap offerings, Malachi reiterates God's love for His people and His promises of a coming Messenger (Mal. 2:17-3:5). God invites them to return to Him and reassures them they will know Him as they should, they would be able to see how good God is, they would experience how wonderful it is to worship Him instead of other things He made in the world.

3. *What are some of the ways God has shown His love, devotion and kindness to you? (Salvation, promise of a future kingdom, provision of job, friends, church, family, etc.)*
4. *Why is it important to give to God? How is giving a part of our worship toward Him?*
5. *What is tithing and how does it help us worship God?*