

Confronting Complacency: The Book of Malachi

May 17th, 2020

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Escaping the Trap of Self-Righteousness (Malachi 2:17-3:5)

1. Who am I judging? (2:17)

2. What am I ignoring? (3:1-4)

3. Who am I overlooking? (3:5)

For further thought and discussion:

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Can you think of a time you were grateful that you *didn't* get what you asked for?

Going Deeper

3. Why is God “*wearied*” by Israel’s complaints (2:17)? Does God grow weary of hearing the cries of his people (see Exodus 3:7-8; Luke 18:1-8)? If not, then why are Israel’s complaints offensive to Him (see also Malachi 3:13-15)?
4. Why would the Israelites have been surprised by God’s response to their complaints? Who did they think God would judge on the “*Day of Lord*”? What does God do instead (see 3:2-4; Amos 5:18-20; see also 1 Peter 4:17)?
5. How do we see the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-5 fulfilled in the ministries of Jesus and John the Baptist (see Matthew 3:1-3f; 11:1-10)? How does Jesus draw near to purify Israel’s worship (Compare Malachi 3:1-4 with John 2:13-25)?

Application

6. Why, according to Jesus, must we be very careful when we judge or evaluate others (see Matthew 7:1-2)? What’s Jesus’ antidote to self-righteousness (Matthew 7:3-5)?
7. Jeff offered three questions to ask ourselves, to help us escape the trap of self-righteousness; (1) Who do I spend the majority of my time evaluating? (2) What sins am I minimizing? (3) Whose needs am I overlooking? How can we use these questions to diagnose self-righteousness in our lives? Which question was most helpful to you? Why?
8. What’s one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?