

“Who Cares? – Malachi: God’s Wake-Up Call”

A Series in the Book of Malachi

“Who Cares? – God; God’s Love Matters”

“I have always loved you,” says the Lord.” Malachi 1:2a

A. The background of the book...

“This is the message that the LORD gave to Israel through the prophet Malachi.” Vs 1:1

1. Malachi means “My Messenger.” God’s prophets were His witnesses to His church in each of the ages.
2. Malachi was written around 432-425 B.C.
3. Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet and his message was followed by 400 years of silence. John the Baptist was the next prophet.
4. Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah. Malachi was bringing a message of judgment to the Israelites.
5. The Israelites had returned from 70 years of Babylonian exile. Their city of Jerusalem was rebuilt and their Temple was restored.
6. The words of Malachi were set in the form of a dialogue. His message was to a people who had become skeptical, careless in worship, indifferent to truth, disobedient, adulterous in marriage, and stingy in their offerings.
7. They were disillusioned and discouraged. Externally, they seemed good but internally, there was a cancer of complacency that had brought them to a place where they were just going through the motions!

“These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.”

Matthew 15:8-9

B. God reaffirms His love...

“I have always loved you,” says the Lord.” Vs 1:2a

1. God’s affirmation of His love was shown in the lives of Jacob and Esau.

“And the LORD replies, ‘This is how I showed My love for you...’” Vs 1:2b

2. God used these twin brothers to demonstrate His sovereign love and predestined plan.

“I loved your ancestor Jacob but I rejected his brother, Esau, and devastated his hill country. I turned Esau’s inheritance into a desert for jackals.” Vs 1:2c-3

3. Jacob’s descendants were in the line of Christ, where Esau’s descendants were enemies of the Israelites and ultimately, in the line of Herod.

“Esau’s descendants in Edom may say, ‘We have been shattered, but we will rebuild the ruins.’ But the LORD of Heaven’s Armies replies, ‘They may try to rebuild, but I will demolish them again. Their country will be known as “The Land of Wickedness,” and their people will be called “The People with Whom the LORD Is Forever Angry.”’” Vs 1:4

4. God’s sovereignty and predestined plan have always existed.

“For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.” Romans 8:29
“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5

5. God’s sovereignty is not in conflict with man’s free will.

“For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’” Romans 10:13

“The Lord isn’t really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9

C. God’s love for Israel was...

“I have always loved you,” says the Lord.” Vs 1:2a

1. God’s love was constant.
2. God’s love was unconditional.
3. God’s love was everlasting.

“The LORD did not set His heart on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations! Rather, it was simply that the LORD loves you, and He was keeping the oath He had sworn to your ancestors. That is why the LORD rescued you with such a strong hand from your slavery and from the oppressive hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 7:7-8

“Long ago the LORD said to Israel: ‘I have loved you, My people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to Myself.’” Jeremiah 31:3

D. How has God loved you?

“I have always loved you,” says the Lord.” Vs 1:2a

1. We are adopted into God’s spiritual family!
“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn— not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:12-13
“But when the right time came, God sent His Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent Him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that He could adopt us as His very own children.” Galatians 4:4-5
“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, ‘Abba, Father.’ For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering.” Romans 8:14-17

2. God loves us more than any other!

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." 1 John 4:16

3. God loves us unconditionally.

"But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Romans 5:8

4. God loves us so much that He sacrificed His Son!

"God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." 1 John 4:9-10

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters." 1 John 3:16

5. God's love gives us grace!

"But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) For He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-6

6. God's love gives us the privilege of becoming His child!

"But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

7. God's love gives us the privilege of an inheritance!

"And since we are His children, we are His heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering." Romans 8:17

8. God's love brings us into a new citizenship.

"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior." Philippians 3:20

9. God's love chooses us!

"We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be His own people."

1 Thessalonians 1:4

10. God's love is preparing a place for us in Heaven!

"When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am." John 14:3

"Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever."

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Next week:

"Who Cares? - God; Worship Matters!"

Malachi 1:6-14