

01 – Malachi 1:1-5 – What love is this?

... going through the motions

When God speaks

Malachi 1:1 ... ‘a prophecy of YHWH’.

2 Peter 1:19-21, “*We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. 21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*”

The problems**Problem # 1**

v 2 God says, “I have loved you”.

“no you haven’t” ... “prove that you love us” ... “show us how you love us”.

... refuse to see God’s love.

Why it is absolutely vital that we properly comprehend God’s love for us.

God’s response

verse 2c-3 ... he chose Jacob ... over Esau.

God’s people have no right to doubt God’s underserved, lavish and gracious love for them it is on every page of the Old Testament.

See Psalm 136

... how we might respond to God’s answer today.

For us today**1) Questioning God’s Love**

Sometimes they are genuinely seeking ...

Often their questioning of God’s love is an excuse.

“It looks as if God’s people think that they have found a satisfactory neutral middle ground between obedience and disobedience. They will not obey God, nor do they have the

nerve to disobey him. They think they can remain God's people, questioning and criticizing him, distrusting him and declining to obey him. But there is no neutral ground. Malachi in the Old Testament, like Paul in the New, was an ambassador, calling on God's people to be reconciled to God, exhorting them not to receive the grace of God in vain."

... because we have been conditioned by our culture to think the world revolves around us.

Questions

- How have you questioned God's love?
- What was your motive?

2) Understanding God's great love

God's election of you reveals God's lavish, underserved gracious love for you.

Ephesians 2:1-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

Titus 3:3-7, "3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

God's love - Lamentations 3:22, Exod. 34:6–7, Deut. 7:7–8, Ps. 106:7–8, Ps. 103:8–12, John 3:16, 1 John 4:10, Rom. 5:6–10, Eph. 2:4–7, Mat 11:25-27, Rom 9:6-15.