**A People in Need of Renewal**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 35: Malachi

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

November 8, 2020

**SERMON NOTES**

*Big Idea: Israel’s hardheartedness demonstrated a need for transformation that only Jesus could provide.*

1. **Israel Returns to their Former Sins** (1-2; 3:6-15)
	1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s covenant faithfulness (1:2-5)

*Israel’s self-justification revealed their rebellious hearts.*

* 1. Despising God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:6-14)
	2. Being led astray by partial priests (2:1-9)
	3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their wives for pagan women (2:10-16)
	4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their tithes (3:6-15)

*Israel “wore God out” by saying that He delighted in evildoers.*

1. **Christ is Coming to Restore Hearts** (3:1-5; 3:16-4:6)
	1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the priesthood and judges His people (3:1-5)
	2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the faithful - His treasured possession (3:16-18)
	3. Secures \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over evil (4:1-3)
	4. Gives them faithful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:4-6; See Eze. 36:24-28)

Application from Malachi

1. If your heart is hardened to God, you need the touch of a Savior.
2. If God were to apply his refining fire to our lives, what would be the first thing to burn away?
3. If our faithfulness to God and our families is inconsistent or shoddy, we must seek God to give us a dedicated heart.

**Answers:** Despite, **offering,** Leaving, **Withholding,** Refines, **Spares,** victory, **hearts**

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

**Bible study:** Read Malachi 1:6-14 and identify the phrase that God repeats three times.

1. *When Israel offered flawed sacrifices, what were they saying about their view of God? When we give God divided loyalty, what are we saying about our view of God?*
2. How can self-justification reveal a heart of rebellion? What are some practical steps we can put in place to make sure we are not justifying sinful behavior?
3. Israel said that God delighted in evildoers, and this was wearisome for God to listen to. What theological dangers should we avoid in our exaltation of grace? (see Rom. 6)
4. The men of Israel’s weak allegiance to God was demonstrated by a weak allegiance to their families (see 2:10-16 and 4:5-6). As we seek God together, how can we also seek to show greater commitment to our families?
5. Testimony: Jesus came to change the hearts of Israel from persistently rebellious hearts to tender hearts of obedience. How has God’s grace worked this in your life?

**Prayer from Malachi**

“Holy Spirit, you see where my heart needs to be refined. Please reveal that to me and give me a heart that desires for you to make those changes.”