

Discussion Questions

Date: June 21st, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

God Purifies His Precious People **Malachi 2:17-3:12**

God's Coming in Judgment (2:17-3:6)

- God will return to His people to uphold His justice. (2:17- 3:1)
- God's coming in judgment is to purify His people. (3:2-6)
- **Questions:** Has the Holy Spirit pricked your conscience on any of these sins? If so, what must change so that your heart reflects God's heart for justice?

God's Heart for Restoration (3:7-12)

- How we regard our possessions reveals our attitude toward God. (v.7-9)
- God's blessing of the people reveals His faithfulness. (3:10-12)
- **Questions:** Do we believe God is trustworthy and invested in our flourishing? How does our self-dependence prevent us from experiencing the blessing God fully intends for us?

Bottom Line: God's love for us is aimed at our refinement and restoration.

Talking Points

- * Why do you think God delays in dealing with evil? What does this reveal about His character?
- * Where or when has cynicism/bitterness towards God crept into your life, specifically when it came to His timing in dealing with something?
- * What trouble or pain can we find ourselves in if rely on ourselves to fix things, rather than waiting on the Lord and His timing?
- * Where do you see our culture trying to normalize the behaviors mentioned in verse 5?
- * What role does confession and community play in the refinement process of us? Is it possible to be refined outside of community or without being open?
- * Why is what we do with our money and possessions an accurate tool to diagnose the health of our hearts?
- * How is your relationship with your money? Do you live in fear, greed, or freedom when it comes to you resources? Do your spending habits reflect a heart that puts God first? How do we practice radical generosity while also being wise with our resources?
- * Did you find yourself getting defensive or closed off during the sermon or these questions? If so, why do you think this is?
- * If you find yourself in this position, do you genuinely believe that God is faithful and is deeply invested in you flourishing? Why or why not?
- * Where in your life do you need to take up and obey God's invitation in verse 10, not just financially, but with your time, treasure, and/or relationships?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

