

Discussion Questions

Date: June 28th, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

The Day Is Coming! | Malachi 3:13–4:6

God's Remembrance of Those Who Fear Him (3:13-18)

- Faithfully serving God is never done in vain. (vv. 13-15)
- God sees and takes as His special possession those who revere Him. (vv. 16-18)
- **Questions:** Are we more interested in seeking God's hand, than seeking His face? Are we seeking to profit in serving Him, or is He enough?

The Hope of the Day of the LORD (4:1-6)

- The day of the LORD will bring justice and healing. (vv. 1-3)
- The Minor Prophets' longing for restoration are fulfilled in Jesus. (4:4-6)
- **Question:** Does the day of the LORD strike fear or longing in your heart?

Bottom Line: God sees and knows all and, in His time, will set all things right.

* Why do you think it is easy for us to expect immediate or material rewards when we follow and obey the Lord? What lies or false reasoning can lead us to have these expectations?

* How does the reality of God's "book of remembrance" challenge your view of "success"?

* Evaluate your motives to serve, give to, or help others. How important is it to you for your work to be noticed? How do you handle it when your efforts go unnoticed?

How can we guard our hearts against selfish or transactional motives when it comes to serving the Lord and others?

* Evaluate your prayer life and times of seeking the Lord. Are they more so defined by asking Him for help or solutions / asking for direction, or are you taking time to genuinely seek His presence?

Why is His presence the ultimate reward?

* Why is it important for us to acknowledge both God's terrifying justice and His beautiful grace and mercy in healing? What happens when we fail to see God as just? When we fail to see him as merciful?

* The Old Testament is a unified narrative arc that points us to Jesus. How does this change or challenge your view on the Old Testament?

* God sees and knows all. The Day of the Lord is coming! How will these truths challenge the way you live and interact with those around you this week?

Is there a relationship that needs reconciliation? Is there someone you know who the Lord has pressed on you to love? Do you need finally be bold and share the gospel with that family member or co-worker?

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

