

Discussion Questions

Date: June 14, 2026

Preacher: Connor Petrick

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Being Loved by God | Malachi 1:1-14

God's actions demonstrate His love for His people (Malachi 1:2-5)

- God has continually and faithfully loved His people.
- God's love brings glory to His name.
- **Question:** Think about the ways you have tangibly seen God show His love to you. How do God's past actions speak to you in your present doubts, needs, and anxieties?

The people's actions should show their love and honor toward God (Mal 1:6-14)

- Duty had replaced devotion in the life of the people (Mal 1:6-9)
- God is concerned with his people's hearts toward him, not just their actions (Mal 1:10-14)
- **Question:** What parts of your life do you reluctantly offer to God?

Bottom Line: God's love for us leads us to true worship.

* What is the significance of the first words of from the Lord being "I have loved you." in His word to the exiles? What about the context of Malachi adds more depth and meaning to this statement?

* Why do we find it hard to believe that God faithfully loves us when life is full of unresolved trials and challenges? How must our perspective change when we are filled with this doubt?

* How does better understanding the story of Jacob, a flawed deceiver chosen by grace, help us understand our relationship with God?

* Do you ever feel like you have to perform perfectly to earn or maintain God's love for you? If you are caught in this, how would your life look differently if you were to instead fully rest in God's grace and mercy?

* How do we discern whether we are obeying God out of duty or devotion? If out of duty, what does healthy biblical correction or repentance look like in this?

* What parts of your life are you slow, hesitant, or even reluctant to offer to God? Why? What would giving up control over these areas look like?

* What does true worship of the Lord look like? When is the last time you experienced this? In the next week, when can you set apart time and create room for worship of the Lord in your life? Where does repentance and surrender play a role in creating this time?

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

