

## Malachi – The Undivided Love of God

For the Love of God Series

Discussion Questions

- **How would you define devotion?**
  - Give examples in everyday life.
  - Why is devotion an important part of the Christian faith?
  
- **Read Zechariah 1:16-17 and Haggai 2:7-9a.** Note: Israel has returned from exile but finds themselves in a smaller piece of land (Judea) than either the former kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
  - What are the promises given?
  - How would the people respond to this? Why?
  
- **Some eighty years later, nothing has changed. The Jews find themselves in no glory years. In fact, it's nothing close to what they used to have not even a century ago.** Haggai arrives and says that the hearts of the people merely mirror their national situation. Here are some examples:
  - **Read Malachi 1:8-9.** What is the issue? What stands out to you?
  - **Read Malachi 2:10-16.** What is the issue? What stands out to you?
  - **Read Malachi 3:6-12.** What is the issue? What stands out to you?
  - How do these examples show the lack of Israel's devotion to God?
  
- **What are examples of devotion in the New Covenant with believers?**
  - How can those examples be offered in a halfhearted way?
  - Why would God have an issue with us, the church, in those things as he would his people of old in ancient Israel?
  
- **Read Malachi 1:2-5.** What is God saying to Israel (Jacob)? (Note: in the ancient world, to have a special relationship like a covenant relationship would be seen as “being loved” while those outside of that relationship would be seen as “being hated.” Think less feeling and more relational status.)
  - Why do you think would God start off this book talking about his love relationship with Israel?
  - Yancey said we should let our deliverance drive our devotion. How does that apply to Israel and even more so the church?
  - What does reflecting on our deliverance by the gospel produce in us? How can that act as a fuel for our devotion?
  - How does this compare with obeying out of duty or guilt?

- How does this conversation intersect our gospel identities of citizen, family, or missionary?
- **Read Mal. 3:1-4; 4:5-6.** (Note: the reference to Elijah points to John the Baptist)
  - How does Malachi finish? Why this way? What is it pointing to?
  - Why are the more “glorious years to come” do so in the arrival of Jesus?