

WHEN SERVANTS DON'T SERVE

Malachi: Factors Fighting Against My Faith

June 28, 2026

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¹⁴ “You have said, ‘**What’s the use of serving God? What have we gained by obeying his commands or by trying to show the LORD of Heaven’s Armies that we are sorry for our sins?**’ ¹⁵ From now on we will call the arrogant blessed. For those who do evil get rich, and those who dare God to punish them suffer no harm.’ ”

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with each other, and the LORD listened to what they said. In his presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared him and always thought about the honor of his name.

¹⁷ “They will be my people,” says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, **they will be my own special treasure**. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. ¹⁸ **Then you will again see the difference between...those who serve God and those who do not.**”

Malachi 3:14–18 (NLT)

“**Care for the flock** that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but **because you are eager to serve God**.” (1 Peter 5:2, NLT)

You can only serve God by **SERVING OTHERS**.

How Serving Meets My Deepest Needs

1. Serving defeats **SELFISHNESS**.

“We should think about others and not about ourselves.” (1 Corinthians 10:24, CEV)

“Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.” (Philippians 2:4b, MSG)

2. Serving cures **LONELINESS**.

“For we are partners working together for God.” (1 Corinthians 3:9a, GNB)

“In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:5, NIV)

3. Serving combats **DEPRESSION**.

“Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it’s just too bad, because there is no one to help him.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, GNB)

4. Serving makes a DIFFERENCE.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:14–16, NLT)

5. Serving makes me like JESUS.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28, NLT) cf. John 13:1-17

6. My service will be rewarded.

““They will be my people,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. “On the day when I act in judgment, they will be my own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”” (Malachi 3:17–18, NLT)

“So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12, ESV)

“His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23, NIV84)

NEXT STEPS

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