



December 17, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Malachi 3:13-4:6 | “The Waiting is the Hardest Part”

Sermon Application Review from Malachi 3:6-12

In what way did you “return” to the Lord this past week (3:7)?

How did you stop “robbing” God (3:8–9)?

How was your giving a “blessing” to others (3:12)?

Scripture Reading

Malachi 3:13–4:6

Habakkuk 3:17–19

Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 16:6; 19:23

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

Isaiah 58:8; 60:1–2

Jeremiah 17:5–8

John 14:15, 21, 23

Study Questions

1. What are you presently waiting for God to provide? How have you learned patience in this process? Read Isaiah 40:28–31 and Lamentations 3:25–26. How can you recommit yourself to wait upon God and trust in His sovereignty?
2. When have you spoken “arrogant” words to God (3:13–15)? What frustration or sorrow provoked this response? What have you learned from this experience? Do you think it is appropriate to speak “hard” words to God? Why or why not? How would you respond to a friend who claims, “It doesn’t pay to serve God” (3:14)?
3. In what sense should you fear God (3:16)? How would you explain the “fear of the Lord” to an unbeliever? Who are the sisters or brothers in your faithful remnant? What role does fellowship play in strengthening your Christian walk? How does the “book of remembrance” motivate you to honor God? In what way does it trouble you that the Lord keeps a record of all that is done in this life?
4. How is the promise of God’s judgment comforting amid evil and injustice in the world (4:1)? What specific injustices do you long to see corrected? How are you preparing to celebrate Christ’s birth this Christmas (4:2)? How has the “sun of righteousness” brought healing and joy into your life?
5. How are you seeking to “remember” God’s Word (4:4)? What plans do you have to read God’s Word in 2024? In what specific ways do you encourage others in their Bible reading and study? What sort of feelings do you have when you consider Christ’s return? How can you more fully prepare to live in light of His return?

Recommended Reading

Brad Hambrick, *Angry with God: An Honest Journey through Suffering and Betrayal* (New Growth, 2022)

Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Messiah in the Old Testament* (Zondervan Academic, 1995)

Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* (NavPress, 2004)

Ken Berding, *Bible Revival: Recommitting Ourselves to One Book* (Weaver, 2014)