

Malachi 1:1-3 - I Have Loved You

The book of Malachi is a dialogue between God and the people of Israel. As He calls them to repentance and reminds them of His love, they respond with hardened hearts and stubbornness. We look this morning at God's love for us and ways to avoid letting our hearts be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

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Issues Addressed in Nehemiah and Malachi

- Allowing the enemy in (Neh. 13:4)
- Neglect and misuse of the Lord's funds (Neh. 13:5, Mal. 3:8-9)
- Neglect of God's servants (Neh. 13:10)
- Selling of wares (Neh. 13:16)
- Defiled/polluted offerings (Mal.1:7)
- Corrupt leaders (Mal. 2:8, Neh. 13:28)
- Infidelity/mistreating of wives (Mal. 2:11, Neh. 13:23-24)
- Complaining against God (Mal. 3:14)

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Questions They Ask

- In what way have You loved us? (1:2)
- In what way have we despised Your name? (1:6)
- In what way have we defiled You? (1:7)
- For what reason? (2:14)
- In what way have we wearied Him? (2:17)
- In what way shall we return? (3:7)
- In what way have we robbed You? (3:8)
- What have we spoken against You? (3:13)

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Genesis 29:30–31 - Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years. When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved [hated], He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

Luke 14:25–26 - Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

Deuteronomy 7:6–8 - "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

- "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

- "but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

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Hebrews 3:12–13 - Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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Romans 5:6–8 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

- But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Ephesians 1:4 - just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

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Psalms 139:23–24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

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Malachi 3:16–18 - Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name. "They shall be Mine," says the LORD of hosts, "On the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them As a man spares his own son who serves him." Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

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Malachi 4:2 - But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

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Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.