

Small Group Questions

8/23.15

Dale Oquist Speaking

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

1. Describe a time when you “tuned out” of something (a conversation, meeting, lesson, movie, ball-game, etc) that was supposed to have your full attention. What happened?

RECAP:

On Sunday, Dale shared the final installment of Agenda: A Study in the Prophets. We looked at the message Malachi had for the people of Israel. They had returned to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon. You would have thought they would approach their freedom with zeal for God and a passion to know him and make him known. That was not the case. They were utterly bored with God. And it would show up in every area of their lives. God had a loving word of warning for them through Malachi. Maybe their warning can help us today guard against any indifference we may have toward God.

2. Yawn, doodle, grab your phone, doze off... When you get bored how do you express your disinterest? Can others usually tell you've check-out?

DIGGING DEEPER:

verses: Malachi 1-3

These were signs that Israel had become disinterested in God: lazy in worship (1:6-14); devalued relationships (2:4-6); dishonest and unkind (2:17-3:5), stopped being generous (3:6-12); worshipping self (3:13-16)

3. Describe a time in your life when you drifted from God and the passion just wasn't there. How was that attitude expressed by you? Do you see it in this list or was it something else altogether? Could others see it, too?

The Faithful Remnant feared the Lord, talked with each other, and honored His Name. They were an Old Testament small group. God “listened” and God “heard” them (Malachi 3:16).

4. What are some ways that being part of a small group has helped prevent you from drifting and kept your passion and your love for God awake and alive?

TAKING IT HOME:

5. What does the alarm God is using to wake you up and to get you back on track with him sound like? Tragedy? Disappointment? Wise and timely counsel?
6. Malachi opens with God saying, “I have loved you.” How does remembering God's love encourage you and help you respond to the wake-up alarms?