



Adventure

*"An unusual and exciting,
typically hazardous, undertaking."*

"ADVENTure: ...Exciting..."

Malachi 4:1-6, Mark 1:1-9a

Sunday | December 2nd, 2018 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Malachi 4:1-6
Mark 1:1-9a

(Other texts cited: Is. 9:2-6, Mal. 3:1, 2 Kings 1:8, Mk. 9:11-13, Mt. 11:11-15)

DISCUSS

1. Pastor Patrick talked about a concept known as *"the dynamic of visual lethargy."*¹ Explain. What does it mean? As a group share some examples from your own life.
2. How does *"the dynamic of visual lethargy"* endanger us spiritually? Have you experienced this in your life or are you experiencing this now?
3. Pastor Patrick defined "excitement" as "strong feelings of enthusiasm and eagerness." He said "to excite is to call to activity; to rouse an emotional response; to awaken. Read Malachi 4:1-6 and discuss. Does this passage fit our definition of "excitement?"

¹The idea here is that "the more you see something, the less you actually see it" (Tripp, *Dangerous Calling*, 2012, p. 115).

4. How do you feel when you read Malachi 4:5, "The great and awesome day of the Lord?"

5. Pastor Patrick argued that Mark saw both the coming of John the Baptist and the coming of Christ as a fulfillment of Malachi 4. Read Mark 1:1-9a and discuss.²

6. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text? How can we together fight "*the dynamic of visual lethargy*" this Christmas?

Notes:

²See "other texts cited" above for further discussion.