Malachi 3:1–6 Refined or Ruined?
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The Lord comes to purify worship, confront sin, preserve His people.
"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. – (Malachi 3:1 NKJV)
First comes a messenger who prepares the way.
"For this is [he] of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.' – (Matthew 11:10 NKJV).
The messenger points away from himself and toward the Lord.
Likewise He also [took] the cup after supper, saying, "This cup [is] the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. – (Luke 22:20 NKJV)
Jesus speaks of the new covenant in His blood.

Seeking Jesus , means welcoming His authority, not requesting His assistance.

"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He [is] like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. – (Malachi 3:2 NKJV)

The Lord's refining work is not rejection; it is purposeful purification.

We should never turn somebody's suffering into an accusation.
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, – (1 Peter 1:6-7 NKJV)
God can use trials to test and refine faith.
He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. – (Malachi 3:3 NKJV)
The Refiner is neither distracted nor overwhelmed.
who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself [His] own special people, zealous for good works. – (Titus 2:14 NKJV)

Grace does not just forgive the worshiper; grace changes the worshiper.

"Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. – (Malachi 3:4 NKJV)
Purification leads somewhere.
I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. – (Romans 12:1 NKJV)

Acceptable worship is a surrendered life, not a Sunday performance.

you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. – (1 Peter 2:5 NKJV)
Let the worship that begins in this room continue wherever He sends you.
And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien--Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts. – (Malachi 3:5 NKJV)

Genuine reverence for God becomes visible in how we treat people.

The refining of God's people is not the same as final judgment.

"because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." – (Acts 17:31 NKJV)

His mercy never requires us to pretend sin is harmless.

"For I [am] the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. – (Malachi 3:6 NKJV)

Our failures do not make Him forget His promises.

[Through] the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. [They are] new every morning; Great [is] Your faithfulness. – (Lamentations 3:22-23 NKJV)

Our hope rests in God's unchanging character, not our changing spiritual condition.

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? – (Hebrews 9:13-14 NKJV)

Lord, let our worship be real and teach us to trust Your unchanging grace.