Malachi 1:1-5 "Loved, Not Entitled"
Calvary Chapel Titusville
Pastor Paul Andris

When Love Is Questioned

The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi. – (Malachi 1:1 NKJV)

A faithful Father won't leave His children trapped in destructive ways.

For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." – (Hebrews 12:6 NKJV)

Let God's word interpret your circumstances, rather than letting your circumstances rewrite God's character.

"I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' [Was] not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved; – (Malachi 1:2 NKJV)

Before God exposes their failures, He declares His love.
He reminds them of a relationship He established

"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. – (Deuteronomy 7:7-8 NKJV)

The Lord did not choose them because they were numerous or impressive.

And not only [this], but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, [even] by our father Isaac (for [the children] not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." – (Romans 9:10-13 NKJV)

Grace produces gratitude, not entitlement.

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for [He is] good! For His mercy [endures] forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy [endures] forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy [endures] forever: – (Psalm 136:1-3 NKJV)

God calls His people to give thanks because His mercy endures forever.

But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness." – (Malachi 1:3 NKJV)

God moves from the brothers to the people descended from them: Jacob's Israel and Esau's Edom.
God's covenant choice and His historical judgment are both in view.

The pride of your heart has deceived you, [You] who dwell in the clefts of the rock, Whose habitation is high; [You] who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to the ground?' Though you ascend [as] high as the eagle, And though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," says the LORD. – (Obadiah 1:3-4 NKJV)

God's mercy should deepen our humility and our reverence.

At the cross, we see sin cannot simply be waved away.

Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. – (Malachi 1:4 NKJV)

Determination can look impressive while moving in the wrong direction.

The answer to God's correction is surrender, not stronger resistance.

Grace does not tell us to build a better excuse; It invites us to come into the light.

Your eyes shall see, And you shall say, 'The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel.' – (Malachi 1:5 NKJV)

The passage ends with a change in what God's people will see and say: God's greatness is larger than the life we currently see.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. – (John 3:16-18 NKJV)

This brings the gospel into full view:

Received grace should become worship and an open invitation to others.

Malachi begins with God's declaration, not Israel's achievement: *"I have loved you."*

That love calls for a response, but our response does not purchase it.

Obedience is the fruit of grace, not the price of admission.