

TOUGH LOVE

HARSH BUT GLORIOUS AWAKENINGS FOR A PEOPLE ON THE BRINK

————— A STUDY ON MALACHI —————



If God were going to speak to you, would
you listen?

Whose breath?

We've heard God say:

“I'm God, listen.” – v.1

“I love you!” – v.2

Part 2 – 1:1-5

When we doubt or reject God's love for us, we've got something significantly out of perspective – we need to have our understanding reframed.

Can God do whatever He wants?

Is God answerable or accountable to me?

Our spoiled rotten, self-centered complaining to or about God is not only out of place/perspective, it, at its heart, is a rejection of and insult to God Himself

(1:6) – “despise My name”

Numbers 11

Our “complaint lists” grow when we build
certain expectations and then demand
God meet them.

TIMELINE OF MALACHI



Malaise – crisis of confidence

General feeling of depression,
discouragement, just yuck

Like we're living a diminished version of
ourselves in light of both our history and
our potential

We've got the temple, but not the glory

We've got the land, but neither full
autonomy nor prosperity

We've got our nation, but not our
prominence or pride

We've got our society, but not stability

We're noble and honorable, yet we're
filled with corruption and corrosion

We've got the Menorah, but not the
Shekinah

We've got our culture, but we're starving
for competent leadership

We've got our place, but not our
prominence

We've got meat and barley, but not milk
and honey

We built the temple, but Messiah hasn't
come

We're relatively more moral than those
who've gone before us, but we're less
blessed

Divorce

Idolatry in the temple

Tithing

Child sacrifice

Mixed marriages

Rampant sexual

Apathetic worship

immorality

God's saying – “woe, woe, woe – you've
got Me, and I love you”

“Your problem (as a nation) is that you
need to wake up: it's time for an
awakening.”

Revelation 2

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance... 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. 4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ...

Revelation 2

5 Consider how far you have fallen!
Repent and do the things you did at first.
If you do not repent, I will come to you
and remove your lampstand from its
place. 7 Whoever has ears, let them hear
what the Spirit says to the churches. ...

Are you/am I willing to be awakened?

Malachi 3:7

How do we get our perspective
right/reframed?

How do we get our perspective
right/reframed?

Do a little comparison

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right/reframed?

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Compare – Don't Compare

Comparisons that produce
discontentment are the devil's tools

Comparisons that produce gratitude,
worship and generosity are the Lord's
tools

Compare yourself to Edom – v.2-5

Leviticus 26

Our sins are as bad as anyone's and yet here we are still in relationship with God – forgiven objects of grace, recipients of covenant love

Compare yourself to Edom – v.2-5

Can God really hate?

Luke 14

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters - yes, even their own life - such a person cannot be my disciple."

When you compare in this way – if Israel
had compared to Edom – we will
conclude ...

Psalm 16:5,6

“Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.”

1 Timothy 6

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

Psalm 23

4 Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil,
for You are with me;
Your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.



Acts 5

40 "... They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

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God is saying to us that we need to
reframe what we're so down about in
light of God's love, God's plans and God's
promises.

He wants to take us from "You don't love
me" – v.2, to "the LORD is great, even
beyond the borders of Israel." – v.5

Revelation 3

15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

...

Revelation 3

17 You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; ...

Revelation 3

and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

Mal. 3:10

So, let's start here:

“I'm God, listen.” – v.1

“I love you!” – v.2

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“I'm God, listen.” – v.1

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Where God wants to take us through this study is to the point where – v.5

“you see and say – the LORD is great”