



Sermon-Based GC Discussion Questions

9/27/2026

Title of Sermon: How Have You Loved Us?

Main Point of Sermon: God's love for His people is not measured by their present circumstances, but demonstrated through His sovereign, covenantal love and mercy—ultimately revealed to us in Jesus.

Israel questioned God's love because life was difficult, but God called them to look back at the whole story: He had chosen them, preserved them, restored them, and would not abandon them because He would remain faithfully to His covenant love.

Launching Question:

- When life is difficult, what kinds of circumstances are most likely to make you question whether God is really good or really loves you? When have you doubted God's love for you because of your circumstances?

Primary Scripture: Malachi 1:1-5

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Malachi 1:1-5. What is surprising about Israel's response to God's declaration, "I have loved you"? What does their question—"How have you loved us"—reveal about the condition of their hearts?
2. What circumstances were causing Israel to question God's love? Why is it dangerous to evaluate God's faithfulness primarily by what is happening in our lives right now. (Recall that Israel has returned to their homeland from exile, but the conditions of their lives and worship are not all they hoped it would be)
3. Why does God answer Israel's question by pointing them back to Jacob and Esau? Read Genesis 25:21-23 and Romans 9:10-16. What does God's choosing of Jacob teach us about the source of God's mercy?
4. What does Malachi mean when God says, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated"? How do verses 3-4 help us to understand that God's love is covenantal commitment expressed in faithful action, while His hatred of Esau involves covenantal rejection expressed in righteous judgment?
5. Read Romans 5:8 and Romans 8:35-39. How does the gospel give Christians an even greater demonstration of assurance of God's love than Israel could see in Malachi's day?

Application Questions

6. The sermon warned against allowing present disappointment to create "spiritual amnesia." What are some specific ways God has carried, provided for, corrected, or shown mercy to you that you need to remember?



7. Israel question God's faithfulness while being slow to examine their own faithfulness. Why is it important to examine our own heart's obedience or priorities before questioning why God isn't doing things that we want Him to?
8. The sermon said, "The wonder of this passage is not that Esau receives judgment—the wonder is that Jacob receives mercy." How does that understanding of this passage change your perspective on God's choosing of Jacob? How does understanding that salvation is completely undeserved change the way you think about pride, gratitude, and worship?
9. The sermon concluded that our assurance rests "not in the strength of your grip on God, but on God's strength of His grip on you." Where do you struggle to rest in God's love? How would believing Romans 8 more deeply change the way you respond to fear, suffering, failure, or uncertainty?
10. As time permits, invite a few people to share their testimony of God's intervening, saving grace in their life. How does hearing these stories help us see and celebrate the truth of Malachi 1:5—that "great is the Lord beyond the border of Israel?"

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for undeserved mercy.
- Ask God to fight spiritual amnesia.