



Going Deeper into

Malachi 1:1-5 – “God Has Loved You”

1. **God declared His love for Israel, but the people responded with an attitude that said, “How have you loved us?” Based on their current struggles, they doubted whether God really loved them.**

What kinds of experiences have led you to question whether God loves you?

What are some situations where, looking back, you can see that God provided for you and showed His love to you?

Romans 5:8 says, “God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Recount how you first came to know and follow Jesus. Who led you to faith? How did God’s love for you feel at that time?

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, I know you have loved me, and that you continue to love me. Forgive me for the times I forget and doubt. Restore the joy of salvation within me and renew my spirit. Amen.

2. **The passage “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated” has been a difficult passage for many to comprehend in light of God’s love. The sermon explained that God chose the nation of Israel to be the people that He would uniquely show His love to so that all people would see God’s work.**

Read John 3:16 and Ephesians 1:3-5. The Bible says that God loves all people so much that He gave his Son for them; yet it also implies that God shows His love particularly to those whom He has chosen. Who in your life do you love differently compared to others around you?

How does the love you show them look different than the love you show to other people?

How has God shown love to Christians in a particular way that is different than His love for people in general?

Pray: Dear Lord, thank you for placing me in the lives of my family and loved ones. Help me to show my love to them, to make a distinction between those I love above all others, and to remember that my acts of love are a choice and a gift I give to them, not a response to how they behave to me. Amen.

3. **Read Lamentations 4:20-21 and Ezekiel 35:14-15. From the historical setting of Malachi, we understand that God was restoring Israel, yet would repay Edom for its boasting over Jerusalem's destruction.**

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-8. How would you describe the word justice when it relates to those who are ungodly?

Some struggle to accept that God will dish out justice, since the Bible says He is love and He is good. How is it possible, or not, to uphold justice and still be loving?

In eschatological writings, Edom often symbolically represents the nations who are against God. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Edom and 5 being a godly nation, how would you place America and our current culture? Why do you place us closer to Edom or closer to a godly nation?

As we look forward to the next series of sermons in the book of Malachi, what do you believe is the answer for our culture, to help it become godlier and less like Edom?

Pray: Dear Father, you are loving and just. Thank you that, in your love, you have carried out justice through Jesus Christ for those who believe in Him. I pray for those in my family and country who do not believe and follow Jesus Christ, that you would spare them your final justice by bringing them to saving knowledge and faith in Jesus. Amen.