

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

MORNING MESSAGE

“Does It Pay to Serve Jesus?”

Malachi 3:13-18

INTRODUCTION

- A. Seven times Malachi gave God’s message and seven times God’s people challenged God’s Word
  - 1. They doubted God’s love; Malachi 1:2, “I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?”
  - 2. They despised God’s name; Malachi 1:6, “O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?”
  - 3. They defiled God’s altar; Malachi 1:7, “Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee?”
  - 4. They disputed God’s judgment; Malachi 2:17, “Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him?”
  - 5. They disagreed with God’s assessment; Malachi 3:7, “Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?”
  - 6. They denied God His money; Malachi 3:8, “Will a man rob God? Ye he have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?”
  - 7. They debated God’s goodness; Malachi 3:13, “Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?”
    - a. “Stout” means strong, hard, bold; it can be translated harsh
    - b. They said, “It is vain to serve God” (v.14a)
    - c. They said, “What profit it is it that we keep his ordinance, and that we walk mournfully before the lord of hosts?” (v.14b)
    - d. They said, “And now we call the proud, happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up, yea, they that tempt God are even delivered” (v.15)
    - e. They are asking, “Does it pay to serve God?”
    - f. You may be asking, “Does it pay to serve Jesus?”
    - g. It pays to serve Jesus because...
- I. HE WILL REMEMBER HIS PEOPLE (v.16)
  - A. God has a book of remembrance
    - 1. He remembers their consecration (v.16a)
    - 2. He remembers their conversation (v.16b)
    - 3. He remembers their contemplation (v.16c)

- B. God has at least three books in His library
  - 1. He has the Bible
  - 2. He has the Book of Life
  - 3. He has the Book of Remembrance
    - a. Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books"
  
- II. HE WILL REJOICE OVER HIS PEOPLE (v.17)
  - A. God called His people "jewels"
    - 1. They are significant (v.17a)
      - a. Exodus 19:5, "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine"
    - 2. They are special (v.17b)
    - 3. They are spared (v.17c)
  - B. Every child of God is a rare jewel, a peculiar treasure
    - 1. We have been purchased by Him, perfected by Him, protected by Him, and preserved by Him
  
- III. HE WILL RETURN FOR HIS PEOPLE (v.18)
  - A. God will return for His children
    - 1. It is a day of surety (v.18a)
    - 2. It is a day of separation (v.18b)
  - B. Paul wrote about this day in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
    - 1. There will be a return – "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven" (v.16a)
    - 2. There will be a resurrection – "and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (v.16b)
    - 3. There will be a rapture – "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up" (v.17a)
    - 4. There will be a reunion – "together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air" (v.17b)