

Mid-Week Recharge Minor Prophets Study

Malachi

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Section #4: Chapter 3:13-4:6

Book Theme: **The Son of Righteousness**

Section Theme: *God's Unique Servant Love*

Class Agenda

Prayer

Review Malachi background

- Identity and location of the prophet
- Historical review

Review 1:1-3:12

Sub-Section #1: The Lord's Response to False Accusations

NIV Text:

13 "You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, 'What have we said against you?'"

14 "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty?'"

15 But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape."

16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

17 "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Content questions:

- What is God's accusation in verse 13? How do the people respond?
- Summarize what the people have said in verses 14 and 15. What is their question?
- What is God's response to those accusations in verses 16 and 17?
- What will be the result in verse 18?

Discussion questions:

- What is the implication of verse 18? How does the Lord make a distinction today between the righteous and the wicked?
- Have you heard accusations like these before? Have you voiced them yourself? How would you respond to these feelings now?

Sub Section #2: The Son of Righteousness

NIV Text:

4:1 "Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.
And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

3 Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the LORD Almighty.

4 "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

5 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.

6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.

Content questions:

- What will happen to the wicked who are separated from the righteous according to verse 1?
- To whom is the promise of verse 2 specifically given? What is that promise in the remainder of verse 2 and 3?
- The first command of the final section is in verse 4. What does the Lord command the people to do?
- What is the Lord's promise in verse 5? When will He fulfill it? Whom will He send?
- What will this prophet do according to verse 6? What will be the consequences if the people of God do not respond?

Discussion questions:

- Personal reflection: Has the Son of Righteousness with healing in His wings risen over you?
- What is the purpose of the Son of Righteousness when He comes?

Related passages: Genesis 18:25, Deuteronomy 7:6, Job 40:12, Psalm 34:15, 56:8, 73:13, 103:13, 147:19, Jeremiah 7:10, Isaiah 5:24, 11:4, 26:20, 30:26, 35:6, 58:3, Ezekiel 28:18, Joel 2:31, Obadiah 1:18, Zechariah 5:3, Malachi 2:17, Matthew 11:14, Luke 1:17, 78, Ephesians 5:14, Revelation 19:15.