
MALACHI- LESSON # 16

Mal 4:3 "You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the LORD of hosts.

This is the answer to Malachi 3:15: 'So now we call the arrogant blessed; not only are the doers of wickedness built up but they also test God and escape.'"

- Who was building them up? It wasn't God- it was a corrupt religious system
- Christ is going to flip that system on its head when he shows up
 - o **Matthew 20:16, Matthew 23:11, Mark 8:35, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, Galatians 3:26-29**
- Why will the wicked be tread down?
 - o The 'righteous' are not oppressing the wicked
 - o The wicked are set ablaze by the Lord in verse 1
- This is all about POSITION
 - o Righteous are elevated above the wicked
 - o This is difficult to see in the flesh- This is about our position "In Christ"
 - **Revelation 3:17**

Mal 4:4 "Remember the law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.

- **What's coming? First the forerunner; then judgment**
 - o Remember: Malachi is the last prophet for nearly 400 years
 - o If God is not going to send anymore prophets until John the Baptist, the people are going to have to rely on the law (scriptures they already have)
- The Law existed to point people to Jesus, so that we could understand the redeeming work of Christ and what it means to be a people before God.
 - o **Galatians 3:23-24-** The law was the schoolmaster to lead people to Christ
 - o **John 5:39-47-** If they followed the law, they would have followed it to Jesus

Mal 4:5 "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

They are told to keep the law of Moses until the event of the great and terrible day of the Lord. It makes a huge difference in our understanding whether we consider this day Christ's first coming or His 2nd! (**Matthew 11:7-15**)

Mal 4:6 "He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."

- **What is being changed here? Hearts!**
 - Greek word for Heart is literally, "The inner man, the mind, will, heart"
 - This is not "how you feel"- this is not about an emotion
 - The Heart- as the Bible uses the word- is your center of operation
 - Purpose something in your heart (**Acts 11:23**)
 - ...think in your hearts (**Matthew 9:4**)
 - Rejoice in our hearts (**John 16:22**)
 - Hearts cleaned from an evil conscious (**Heb. 10:22**)
 - Hearts can condemn us (**1 John 3:20**)

Malachi 4:6 is about RECONCILIATION

- Turn the heart of the father, again toward the children
- Turn the hearts of the children, again toward their father
- Remember: God and His people have both turned away
 - **Mal 3:7** *"From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts. "But you say, 'How shall we return?'*
- Reconciliation: The bringing together of two parties after an estrangement
 - **Romans 5:10-11, Colossians 1:21-22**

so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse

- **Romans 9:27**
- Malachi ends on a pretty harsh note: with the word "curse"
 - As bad as things are- God praised the faithful remnant, He is a witness to their faithfulness, and promises that their obedience will be rewarded.