

Malachi 3-4 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From Malachi 3:7-8 how had Israel turned aside from God's ways (v8) and how had He reacted (v7)? Why is this called "robbery"?

5. Based on 3:9-10 what was Israel's condition (v9) and why (v9)? What did God tell Israel to do (v10) and why (v10)? What did He promise (v10)?

6. According to 3:11-12 what else did God promise if they obeyed in the area of finances (v11, 12)? How broadly should we apply this?

7. Using 3:13-15 what false belief had Israel declared (v14, 15)? How did God describe this attitude (v13) and to what did it lead (v15)?

8. Looking at 3:16-18 how did some of the Jews respond (v16) and what did God do for them (v16)? What did He promise to do for them (v17) and what would result (v18)?

9. In 4:1-3 what two groups are presented (v1, 2) and what will be their respective destinies (v1, 2-3)? What should this encourage?

10. From 4:4-6 what were they to remember (v4) and who would God send before His "terrible day" to reinforce this (v5)? What would his mission be (v6)?

11. Review Malachi 3-4. What specific sins will God judge (3:5, 8, 14-15; 4:1-2, 6)? How should we respond (3:10, 16; 4:4, 6) if we want to escape God's judgment?

Scripture to Remember

*"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows."
Malachi 3:10 (NASV)*

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Saul's Fatal Decision (1 Samuel 16-20)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. How would you define insecurity? What is it that people are insecure about and why does this prevent us from growing in the Lord if we do not deal with it?
2. Look at 1 Sam 16. Why did God's Spirit depart from Saul and why does that not happen today? What does God do when we resist Him as New Testament believers?
3. Do you agree that "competitive relationships are always surface relationships" (look at 1 Sam 17-19)? How should we relate to one another in the body of Christ?
4. How do these things indicate insecurity—others' successes bug you, doing nothing rather than looking bad, or inability to laugh yourself? Why are these attitudes bad?
5. Why do people try to recruit others (like Saul did) to be bitter with them. How does this relate to why gossip and slander are so bad (1 Pet 2:1, Prov 10:18, 20:19, 26:24)?
6. Discuss why secure people talk to the individual, but insecure people talk to everyone else. Why do insecure and bitter people drive everyone away?
7. Talk about specific ways to begin to deal with this insecurity.



IN YOUR FACE

Studies in the Minor Prophets

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Pay Me Now Or... Introduction to Malachi 3-4

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

There is old TV commercial about car maintenance. At the end the greasy old mechanic looks into the camera lens and says “You can pay me now (pause) or pay me later.” The implied final phrase is “But, you’re gonna pay.” This is the message of Malachi 3-4. Even though some in Israel were faithful, most were selfishly indulging themselves, unconcerned about the things of God. He told them that they could pay Him now (obey) or they would pay Him later in judgment. He promised in these chapters to first remove the dross from His people, refining them with His fires of discipline. He would make the faithful pure, and remove the unfaithful—sorcerers, adul-

terers, swindlers, liars, and oppressors of the helpless—from their midst. He then called them to repent of robbery, of their withholding of all the tithes and offerings from God. Genuine repentance always leads to changed behavior, and this particular change related to their financial support of God’s work. Because they had not given the whole tithe to God there wasn’t enough food in the temple to sustain His priests. They were cursed because of this, but if they would repent and give as they should God would pour out overflowing blessings on them. He would rebuke the devourer of their crops and then all nations would call them a delightful land. Finally, God promised to reward the righteous,



It is good when God gets in our face and straightens us up through His Word.

partly by bringing the unrighteous into judgment. They arrogantly said their service to God was worthless and had turned their hearts from their children. However, God promised to remember the righteous and prepare them as His possession; He would bring healing to them, they would joyfully tread down the wicked, and fathers and children’s hearts would be restored to each other. In the end God will prevail; His only question is will you “pay me now or pay me later?”

Daily Study Questions for Malachi 3-4

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Malachi 3:1. Who would God send first and what would he do? Describe who would come next. Where would He appear and how would He do it?</p>	
<p>2. Using 3:2-4 what would the day of the Lord’s coming be like (v2)? What would the Lord do for His people (v3) and why would this be good (v3-4)?</p>	
<p>3. In 3:5-6 who will receive God’s judgment when He appears (v5)? Who will be preserved, and why (v6)? How should this encourage us?</p>	

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