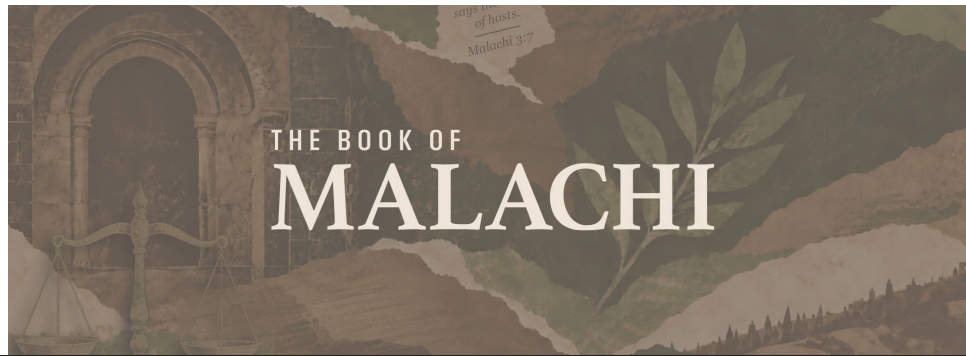




CONVERSATION STARTER

What is something you gladly give your time, energy, or money to because you believe it is worth it?

DEEPER

Read Malachi 1:6-14

1. Worship begins with seeing God as he truly is. In this passage, God describes himself as a Father, Master, the LORD of hosts, and a great King. Which of these descriptions most strengthens—or most challenges—the way you currently relate to God? Why?
2. Our lives may reveal something different from what our words claim about God. If someone observed only how you used your time, money, attention, and abilities this past week, what might they conclude God is worth to you?
3. The priests gave God sacrifices they would never have dared to present to their governor. What are some ways we may give God our “leftovers” while offering our best attention and energy elsewhere? Where do you see that temptation in your own life?
4. In verse 13, the priests describe worship as a weariness. When prayer, Scripture, generosity, gathered worship, or obedience begins to feel burdensome, what might that reveal about our view of God? What helps restore delight without turning worship into another attempt to earn God’s approval?
5. Because the priests regularly led worship, taught God’s Word, and served in the Temple, they could become so familiar with these responsibilities that they began treating God casually. How can something similar happen to longtime Christians or ministry leaders? What can help us recover genuine awe, gratitude, and attentiveness toward God?
6. Read **1 Peter 1:18–19**. Israel brought blemished sacrifices, but Jesus offered himself as the spotless Lamb in our place. How does Christ’s perfect sacrifice change the way we respond to our own halfhearted or inadequate worship? How does the gospel lead us toward joyful worship rather than merely telling us to try harder?

7. God promises that his name will be great among the nations. How should knowing that God is gathering worshipers from every nation shape our view of the church, our prayers for unbelievers, and the way we live throughout the week? What is one concrete way you can display God's worth this week?

NOTES

PRAYER

Praise God as the great King and LORD of hosts. Confess the ways you have treated him as less worthy than he truly is or offered him only what was convenient. Thank him that Jesus offered himself as the spotless sacrifice for undeserving worshipers. Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group see God more clearly, delight in worshiping him, and live in a way that displays his worth to others.