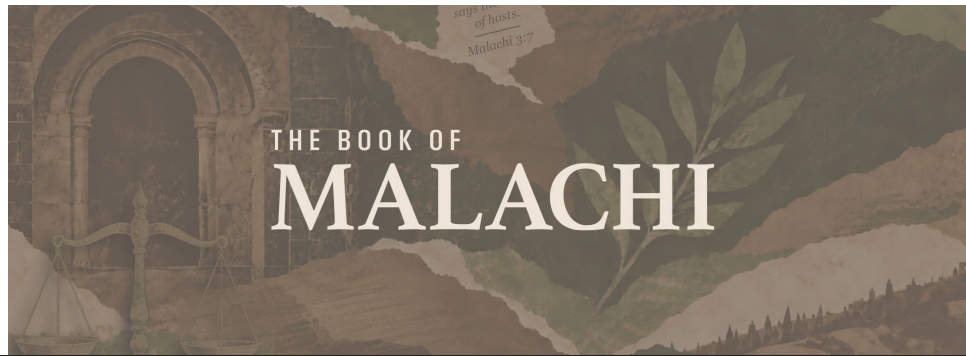




## CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something small or insignificant that you find surprisingly frustrating when people don't do it the right way?

## DEEPER

### Read Malachi 2:17-3:6

1. God's people questioned his justice because they saw evil people prospering while God seemingly did nothing about it. When have you struggled to understand God's goodness or justice because of something you witnessed or experienced? How did that affect your view of God?
2. Pastor Josh described two ways people might ask, "Where is the God of justice?" One asks, "God, don't you see what those people are doing?" The other asks, "God, did you see what happened to me?" Which camp do you live in right now? How can these two questions reveal different struggles of the heart? And how should our response to someone differ depending on which question they're asking?
3. The sermon challenged us to consider whether we truly desire God's justice or simply want him to deal with the sins of people we disagree with. What are some ways we might compare ourselves to others to feel more righteous? How does comparing ourselves to God's standard of holiness change our perspective?
4. God describes his work of purification using the images of a refiner's fire and a fuller's soap. What do these images teach us about God's desire for his people? And how have you experienced God exposing and refining areas of sin in your own life?
5. Think about an area of your life where you might currently be resisting God's refining work. What sinful attitudes, desires, or behaviors might God be calling you to confess and turn away from? What would genuine repentance look like in that area of your life?
6. God makes it clear that he sees injustice and knows those who are responsible. How can knowing that God sees every wrong and will ultimately bring justice encourage someone who has been hurt or sinned against? How can we show God's compassion and care for people suffering because of others' sins?

7. God reminds his people that they have not been consumed because he does not change. How does God's unchanging character give us confidence in his promises, especially when we struggle with sin, experience injustice, or question his timing?
8. The sermon pointed us to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise in Malachi 3:1. How do Jesus' first coming, his death on the cross, and his promised return demonstrate both God's justice and his mercy? How should these truths shape the way we live today?

## NOTES

## PRAYER PROMPT

Spend time praying together, thanking God for his perfect justice, unchanging character, and faithfulness to his people. Ask him to reveal areas of sin in your hearts that you may have been justifying or defending, and pray for humility and a willingness to repent as he continues his work of sanctification.

Pray for those who have experienced injustice or have been deeply hurt by the sins of others. Ask God to comfort them with the assurance that he sees, knows, and cares about what they have experienced. Pray that they would find healing, hope, and peace in Christ.

Finally, thank God for Jesus, who bore the judgment our sins deserve, and for the promise that he will return to make all things right. Ask him to help your group live faithfully and pursue holiness as you await his return.