

Getting To Know You

1. What has been the most overwhelming part of this year and all the changes? Explain.
2. Have you ever had a chance to redo something? If so, what were the circumstances? Results?
3. Tim Keller said, "A lack of generosity refuses to acknowledge that your assets are not really yours, but God's." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Charles Swindoll said, "The world has changed and it's going to keep changing, but God never changes; so we are safe when we cling to Him". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Who is Malachi? When did he live? Where was he from? Who was his primary audience? What was his message? What has happened to Israel and Judah by this point? What had recently been rebuilt? What was the purpose of the book? What is the theme of the book?
2. What are some of the passages or texts that stand out in Malachi? Which ones of them are future in nature? Which ones were fulfilled in Malachi's lifetime?
3. Does God ever change? As humans, can we avoid change? Explain. Is change something you enjoy or avoid as much as possible? How has your life changed over the last 6 months? What have you learned in the process? Where have you been stretched? How encouraging is it to you to know that despite all the changes that God never does? Explain.
4. When confronting Israel, what was God's rebuke? What were they doing that was not pleasing to God? What did it demonstrate about their view of God?

When God addresses the priests, what were they doing? What are some ways that they have become corrupted? How was similar before the Assyrian and Babylonian captivity? Have they corrected what led to their destruction and judgement in the first place? Explain.

How had worship become routine for them? What should it look like? What has it come to be? How do we avoid this in our own lives? What are some key indicators that worship has lost intimacy, fellowship, and awe? Explain. How do we avoid going through the motions?

5. How is marriage and divorce addressed in Malachi? What picture is painted? What was Israel doing? What is God's view on marriage? How was it being distorted? What had become common & routine with marriages? What is God's view on divorce? Explain.

If you are married, how is your relationship? How do we avoid repeating what is described in Malachi? How do we maintain a vibrant relationship with the wife or husband of our youth? Explain.

6. There is a theme of social justice throughout the prophets. What is God's view on social injustices? Explain. How do we delineate between what God views as social injustices and what man views? Explain. What were the social injustices taking place during Malachi's ministry? What were the most common ones during the prophetic books?
7. How was Israel stealing/robbing God? What challenge does God give Israel? When it comes to the area of giving, how are you doing? Who does everything belong to? Do we view money and possessions from a biblical or worldly perspective? Explain. Are missing out on any blessings that God wants you to receive? Explain.

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?