

**Belmont Exeter House Group Notes**  
**w/c 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
**Malachi 3v13 – 3v18 – Faithful Reverence**

The book of Malachi reminds us of the character of God and why he is worth worshipping. It encourages us to respond with both repentance and a renewed commitment to serve him in our everyday life circumstances. It speaks to our hearts as well as our minds.

Our passage tonight is taken from the Morning Service on 21<sup>st</sup> July. If people were not able to be at the service, then please encourage them to catch up online via the talks page on the Belmont Exeter website. <https://belmontexeter.church/talks/>

This outline gives plenty of questions for studying the text, as well as exploring the outworking of these ideas in our everyday lives. There's more than you'll need for a single study so please do edit to a focus that is helpful to your group / study.

Resources which you may find helpful as you prepare to lead the study include:

- The book of Malachi summary video by the Bible Project, a great starting point to understand the flow of the book.
- Daniel and the Twelve Prophets for Everyone by John Goldingay, in just over 10 pages John takes you through the whole of the book of Malachi. It is very accessible and gives an excellent overview of the book.
- The Message of Malachi by Peter Adam, in depth commentary which focuses on our passage in chapter 6.

**BIG IDEA:** Those who 'Fear the Lord' have hope for the future.

**WAY IN:** two different starting points:

- What does the term FOMO stand for?
  - Why do you think people suffer from FOMO?
- Which are the top 5 common fears people have in the UK?
  - There are plenty of lists on the internet. Most contain some or all of these – Heights, Spiders, Public Speaking, Flying, Crowds/Outside
  - A follow up question is why do you think people fear these?

**READ:** The study will focus on Malachi 3v13 – 3v18. Since this is a short passage you may like to read it through twice. You could read it in two different translations.

**DIG IN:** Questions to discuss

- 1) Which part of the text (or sermon if you were able to listen to it) had the greatest impact on you? What puzzled you? Did you learn anything new about God? Jesus? You?
- 2) What is the central complaint the Israelites make against God and why do they make it? (Malachi 3v14 & 15)
  - What does the phrase 'What do we gain by carrying out his requirements' tell us about the Israelite's spiritual maturity?
  - What did the Israelites believe God should be doing for them?

- 3) Why did some of the Israelites not complain? (Malachi 3v16)
- What does it mean to 'fear the Lord'?
    - The Hebrew here means to have reverence and awe of God
- 4) What did they do instead? (Malachi 3v16) What was their conversation about?
- Why would writing a scroll be helpful for those who revere God?
    - The content of the scroll is not revealed. Verse 17 suggests it may include details of those who feared the Lord., perhaps like the 'Lamb's book of life' in Revelation 21v27. Some think it was a record of God's past promises and actions, perhaps similar to the Royal Chronicles mentioned in Esther 6v1.
- 5) What are the consequences for those who serve God rather than serving themselves? (Malachi 3v17-18) . See also Jesus statement in John 5:24

#### **LIVE IT OUT:**

- 6) How can Christians express a fear and reverence of God in their lives?
- How can we help each other to maintain a healthy 'fear of the Lord'?
- 7) Some people call the Bible we have today our scroll of remembrance.
- what methods do you regularly use to help you remember what the Bible tells us about God and his creation?
  - Why do you find some methods more helpful than others?
- 8) Can it ever be spiritually healthy to suffer from FOMO – the fear of missing out?

#### **PRAY IT THROUGH:**

Choose one or more of these ideas to pray through with your homegroup:

- Share and pray about a part of your weekly pattern in which you'd like the 'fear of the Lord' to guide your thoughts and actions more.
- Share and pray about how you can strengthen your personal reading / engagement with the Bible.