

September 3, 2023

Series: The Story, Ch. 7, Pt. 7

Sermon: The Waiting is the Hardest Part

Text: Malachi 1-4 (with 4:4-6 as conclusion)

Sermon Outline:

1. Obey the Law of the LORD. (4:4)
2. Hear the Word of the LORD. (4:5)
3. Receive the Salvation of the LORD. (4:6)

Discussion Questions:

1. Chip mentioned on Sunday that he is more productive when he is already busy. Can you relate to that? Are you more effective with your time when you have more OR less of it?
2. Is your life easy, stable, and full of routine? Or is it busy, chaotic, and crazy? If you have experienced both, under which circumstances are you more likely to run hard after God?
3. During the time of Malachi, for Israel, it's likely that the Temple had been rebuilt, worship and sacrifices had returned to the Temple complex, and the walls of the city had been restored. Everything seemed to be going well, yet Israel was complacent.

Read the following passages and ask: Could this specific accusation be charged against me?

- Read Malachi 1:2-5 & 3:13-15. They only wanted God for what He could do for them. Is your view of God's glory, character, and worth based on what's He's done for you lately?
 - Read Malachi 1:6-8, 14 & 3:8-10. They were halfhearted worshippers and weren't all-in for God. Do sometimes think God will be happy with anything you give Him? Also, do you treat your landlord or boss or sports team different than God? For example do you give to them or serve them or even worship them with more diligence and passion than God?
 - Read Malachi 2:10-16. They married pagans and casually sought divorce instead of honoring and pushing biblical marriage. If you are married, do you honor and love your spouse even when you don't feel like it? If you are not married, do you pursue only relationships that are God-honoring and marriage which is biblical?
 - Read Malachi 3:5. They were immoral and unjust in their worldview and conduct. Are you having a hard time with obeying God re: any of the things mentioned in Malachi 3.5?
4. Read Malachi 4:4-6. When life seems easy, how well do you fight complacency? What can you do now to avoid any of the above charges being applied to you?