

THE LOVING FATHER

MALACHI 2:17-3:5

The loving God of JUSTICE will send the Messiah to purify His people for service and to JUDGE unbelievers for their sins.

- I. The complaint: How does a JUST God allow INJUSTICE? (v. 2:17)
- II. The problem: No one can MEASURE up to the righteousness of God. (v. 3:2a)
- III. The solution: God will FULFILL His covenant promise and send the perfect SACRIFICE to reconcile believers to Himself. (v. 3:1-3a)
- IV. The purpose: to separate His people for SERVICE and WORSHIP. (v. 3:3b-4)
- V. The resolution: God will judge and PUNISH unbelievers for their evil deeds. (v. 3:5)

FURTHER UP. FURTHER IN

1. Share how your father has impacted your life. Confess with one another if there is any bitterness you have towards your earthly father.
2. Discuss the complaints that the people were making against God in Mal. 2:17. How were they mistaken about God's character? Is. 1:14, 43:24, 40:28-31, 5:20-21; James 1:16-17
3. How do we repeat the same mistaken attitudes today regarding God's justice?
4. Look at v. 3:2. Discuss God's perfect standard of righteousness and how we cannot possibly achieve it. Rom. 3:9-12, Psalm 14:1-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20, Rom. 3:23, Isaiah 64:6
5. Read verses 3:1 Who is the messenger? Who else is Malachi referring to in this verse? How does Jesus fulfill these prophecies? Rom. 3:26, Matt. 11:9-10, Is. 40:3, John 1:29, Zech. 13:9, Jer. 31:31-34, Luke 22:19-20, 2 Cor. 5:21,
6. What are we being saved TO? What is the purpose of God calling us into communion with Him? Mal. 3:3-4, Ezek. 20:40-42, Eph. 2:8-10, 1 Peter 2:9
7. Discuss God's final judgment in Mal. 3:5. What are the deeds of the unbeliever? How does this challenge you to examine your own faith? How does it encourage you to share your faith with others? Lev. 19:13, Deut. 24:17, Matt. 3:11-12, Luke 4:16-21, Rom. 8:1