

How Have We Wearied You?

March 11, 2018 – Pastor Dan Hardesty

Scripture: Malachi 2:17-3:5

Big Idea: For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Pet 4:17)

We desire justice while acting unjustly (2:17)

God's silence is not approval (Isa 50:10-11, Psa 50:19-22)

God's justice is not fair (Matt 20:15, Act 17:31, Isa 53:6)

God deals with the unjust starting with us (3:1-4)

The refiner's identity (1)

God will prepare the way for himself (Luke 1:17)

God will take on flesh - temple (John 2:19-22)

The refiner's process (2-3)

Breaking (Jer 23:29)

Heating (Prov 17:3)

Removing (Prov 25:4)

Purifying (Psa 12:6)

Perfecting (Job 23:10)

The refiner's goal (4)

To purify us as his temple (1 Cor 6:19)

To unify us in worship (Rev 19:7)

A day of judgment is coming for all (3:5-6)

The arrogant are consumed in their sin (4:1)

The reverent are conformed to the Son (3:6)

Discussion

How Have We Wearied You? / Malachi 2:17-3:5

Questions to get started

- 1.) Which of your communicating methods is most to the point – Telephone, in person, writing, prayer?
- 2.) Have you ever been wearied by someone's words?
- 3.) What is something that impacted you from Sunday's sermon? – "How Have We Wearied You?"

Read Malachi 2:17-3:5

Questions from the text

- 1.) How have the people wearied the Lord with words?
How have you demonstrated impatience with God?
- 2.) How does 2 Peter 3:9 give us some perspective on God's apparent silence when it comes to injustice?
- 3.) How does God say he will respond in 3:1? Who are the messengers? What does each do?
- 4.) What are the two ways in which God will come in verse 2 and 5?
- 5.) Who does he refine and who does he judge?
- 6.) How does God refine his people? See "The refiner's process" on the other side, reading the verses to guide discussion.
- 7.) What is the outcome for the refined in verse 4?
- 8.) What is the outcome for those listed in verse 5 (see 4:1)?
- 9.) How does Jesus' life testify against the sins listed in verse 5?
If we are refined into his likeness, how will we practically live considering the list in verse 5?
- 10.) Define what it means to fear God.

Questions for application

- 1.) What are refining moments in your past for which you are now thankful?
- 2.) What is God using right now in your life to refine you more into His likeness?

Pray: Turn Isaiah 43:2 and James 1:12 into personal prayers considering the ways you have shared that God is refining you.