



HOUSE GROUPS

HOUSE Groups: Discussion Questions:

Malachi 3:1-12

(Key Verse)

Malachi 3:7b *Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'*

(Malachi 3:1): **1** "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.

Question: Who is the messenger that prepares the way of the Lord, and who is the Messenger of the covenant?

Question: Why does it seem like the wicked prosper while the righteous struggle?

Question: How does a heart that is growing hard towards the things of the Lord lead a person to believe that it would be better to *not* serve the Lord than to follow His commands?

(Malachi 3:2-3): **2** "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He [is] like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. **3** He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

Question: How does the Lord refine our character, and use situations to purify our hearts?

Question: Are there any stories that you can share of how the Lord used, or is currently using a difficult time in your life for your good?

(Malachi 3:4-5): **4** "Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. **5** And I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness Against sorcerers, Against adulterers, Against perjurers, Against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, And against those who turn away an alien--Because they do not fear Me," Says the LORD of hosts.

Question: How does the refining fire of God's work in our life produce pure hearts, and pure offerings before Him?

Question: Why do you think that it is that God deals more quickly with wickedness in His house than with those outside of the family of God?

(Malachi 3:6-7): **6** "For I [am] the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. **7** Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept [them]. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

Question: How does God show His grace, and faithfulness to His people when they have sinned against Him?

Question: How would encourage a backslidden believer to return to the Lord, and how do you receive encouragement when you have sinned?

(Malachi 3:8-10): **8** "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, [Even] this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you [such] blessing That [there will] not [be room] enough [to receive it].

Question: Why do you believe that the Lord considered the people's lack of tithing as robbery?

Question: Why is giving of our finances to the Lord important? How does our giving affect how we manage, and view our finances?

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(Malachi 3:11-12): **11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; **12** "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.

Question: How does our obedience to the Lord lead to our safety, and how does disobedience remove us from the place receiving blessings from the Lord?