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Malachi

September 27, 2020

Disputation #1 – Doubting Gods Love
Malachi 1:1-5

1. God expresses His love

2. The people doubt it

3. The Lord elaborates on how He loves them

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION POINTS FROM SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 SERMON

*Disputation #1 – Doubting Gods Love
Malachi 1:1-5*

'Oracle' can be translated 'burden' – Malachi had to communicate hard truths to the Israelites from God which felt like a burden. Tell of a time you had to tell someone the hard truth that felt like a burden.

The people of Israel doubt God's love. Have you ever doubted God's love for you?

Have you ever thought or said, "God may say that He loves me, but I just don't see it."

How can doubting God's love lead to rebellion?

Why is it important for us to acknowledge and repent of our own personal sins? Why is it important not to blameshift?

For many of us, as long as we perceive our real problem as 'out there' rather than in here (our hearts) then we will never repent. As long as our issues are external rather than internal then we will be stuck in a life of misery.

Discuss the truth of the Father: 'God disciplines the one he loves.' Why is this important? How did God discipline Israel? How has God disciplined you?

Talk about God's grace aimed at you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. None of us are worthy of salvation. The Good News is that the Messiah, Jesus Christ, has come to offer unworthy sinners grace.

If you find yourself at a place in your life where you are running from God or you are drifting or distant, how can the realization that God loves you be the motivation that causes you to return?