

# Answers to Sermon Notes

## “Turning Hearts, Part IV”

“Responding to the Love of God...With Persevering Faith”

Malachi 2:10 – 3:5

3/12/23

<sup>5</sup> “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

- 1) The Day of the Lord is **coming**.
  - a) Just as his first coming occurred in time, bringing the **Day** of **Salvation**.
  - b) His second coming will occur in time, bringing the **Day** of **Judgment**.
- 2) Prior to that day, the Lord has purposed to **prepare** his people by sending Elijah (John the Baptist) to **reissue** the call of the Law and Prophets: Repentance and Faith.
  - a) The ongoing testimony of this voice, along with the **good news** of the gospel, leads them with seriousness to the **cross** of Christ, where they find both forgiveness and ongoing **sanctification**.
  - b) In the language of Malachi, the **effect** of this is:
    - i) to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, concerned with their **eternal destiny**,
    - ii) to turn the hearts of the fathers to the Lord, as they seek to lead their children by **example**,
    - iii) and to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers as they witness the **genuineness** of that example.
- 3) So far we have seen:
  - a) That our turning must be **empowered** by a deep and profound understanding of God’s **love** to us.
    - i) **Electing** love  
(1) In **spite** of who/what we **were**.
    - ii) **Performative** love
  - b) That the overall response to this love will be lives of **worship**.
    - i) Giving our lives as **living** sacrifices to him.
    - ii) Freely, pleasing to **God**, reverent. (Willing **Worshipers**)
  - c) That central to this act of turning is a **passionate** concern for incorruptible **instruction**.
    - i) Seeking after the **life** and peace offered by God in his **word** rather than the, “life and peace,” offered by people in exchange for **false** teaching.
- 4) Today we see that hearts that are turning back toward the LORD must be hearts of **persevering** faith.
  - a) Faith
    - i) Faithful rather than **faithless**.  
(1) Continuing to **trust** the word of God rather than disregard it.  
(2) Not, “Do you **believe in** God?” but, “Do you **believe** God?”
    - ii) **Judah** has been faithless:  
(1) Faithless to **God** and to one **another**.

- (a) In **marrying** the daughter of a foreign god. (**pagan** women)
- (b) And in **divorcing** the wives of their youth.
- (2) We must attend to each of these, for they both greatly affect **our**, and our **children's**, preparation for the DOL.
  - (a) While God has already addressed:
    - i. The need to recognize the **depth** of his **love** to us.
    - ii. And that the overall response should be that of **offering**.
    - iii. And that this must lead to a firm commitment to **true instruction**.
    - iv. The first aspect of the fathers' **lives** to be addressed in their work of turning the hearts of their children by **example** is their marriages. (2:15)
      - 1. Marrying a **daughter** of the LORD.
      - 2. Remaining **faithful** to her.
        - a. But, this involves much **more** than not divorcing; it requires **love**. (2:16)
        - b. The example of this loving union is to be the **seed** of godly offspring.
      - 3. And as the **helpmate**, wives should strive to do all that they can to help this union **function** as God has directed.
  - b) Persevering (**Covenantal**)
    - i) Through three things:
      - (1) **Time**. (2:10-16)
      - (2) **disillusionment**. (2:17-18)
      - (3) The **purifying** process. (3:1-4)
        - (a) It is not a question of **how far** you have made it through the process; it is a question of **whether** you are **genuinely** engaged in the process by faith. (Philippians 3:7-16)
- 5) A heart that is turning toward the LORD is a heart of **persevering faith**.
  - a) Remaining faithful to the **covenants** in which we stand.
  - b) And persevering in this faith through **time**, disillusionment and the **purifying** process.
- 6) May the LORD continue to **prepare** us by his word and Spirit.
  - a) For the **Day** is coming. (3:5)