

Sermon Notes

“Turning Hearts, Part IV”

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

Malachi 2:10 – 3:5

3/12/23

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ 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 _____ by a deep and profound understanding of God’s _____ to us.
 - i) _____ love
(1) In _____ of who/what we _____.
 - ii) _____ love
 - b) That the overall response to this love will be lives of _____.
 - i) Giving our lives as _____ sacrifices to him.
 - ii) Freely, pleasing to _____, reverent. (Willing _____)
 - c) That central to this act of turning is a _____ concern for incorruptible _____.
 - i) Seeking after the _____ and peace offered by God in his _____ rather than the, “life and peace,” offered by people in exchange for _____ teaching.
- 4) Today we see that hearts that are turning back toward the LORD must be hearts of _____ faith.
 - a) Faith
 - i) Faithful rather than _____.
 - (1) Continuing to _____ the word of God rather than disregard it.
 - (2) Not, “Do you _____ God?” but, “Do you _____ God?”
 - ii) _____ has been faithless:
 - (1) Faithless to _____ and to one _____.
 - (a) In _____ the daughter of a foreign god. (_____ women)

(b) And in _____ the wives of their youth.

(2) We must attend to each of these, for they both greatly affect _____, and our _____, preparation for the DOL.

(a) While God has already addressed:

1. The need to recognize the _____ of his _____ to us.
2. And that the overall response should be that of _____.
3. And that this must lead to a firm commitment to _____.
4. The first aspect of the fathers' _____ to be addressed in their work of turning the hearts of their children by _____ is their marriages. (2:15)
 1. Marrying a _____ of the LORD.
 2. Remaining _____ to her.
 - a. But, this involves much _____ than not divorcing; it requires _____. (2:16)
 - b. The example of this loving union is to be the _____ of godly offspring.
 3. And as the _____, wives should strive to do all that they can to help this union _____ as God has directed.

b) Persevering (_____)

i) Through three things:

(1) _____. (2:10-16)

(2) _____. (2:17-18)

(3) The _____ process. (3:1-4)

(a) It is not a question of _____ you have made it through the process; it is a question of _____ you are _____ engaged in the process by faith. (Philippians 3:7-16)

5) A heart that is turning toward the LORD is a heart of _____.

a) Remaining faithful to the _____ in which we stand.

b) And persevering in this faith through _____, disillusionment and the _____ process.

6) May the LORD continue to _____ us by his word and Spirit.

a) For the _____ is coming. (3:5)