

Tuesday, March 21

¹⁶ *Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another: The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.*

1. What can we learn from the fact that, “The LORD paid attention and heard them...?”
 - a. Though the LORD obviously knows everything, what do you think it means that he “paid attention” to this group of people?
 - b. What kinds of things do you think he heard them saying?
 - c. What does this tell you about God?
2. Do you think you have ever been part of a conversation that received a similar kind of “hearing” from God?
 - a. How does it make you feel to know that God is this engaged and ready to embrace those whose hearts are devoted to him?
 - b. Does this make you more apt to be part of these groups/conversations in our own day?
 - c. Where might you find them?

KTFK: when those / complete. / will hear / firm commitment / and live / who fear / to join / him meet, / his word / and celebrate / The LORD / themselves in

Song: “Make Us One”

Prayer: “Thank you, Lord, that just as in the days of Elijah, or Malachi, you always reserve for yourself a remnant that is faithful to you. Draw your remnant together in the days in which we live and help us to take our place within it eagerly, actively, joyfully, and humbly. Amen.”

Wednesday, March 22

¹⁶ *Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another: The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.*

1. What do you think this book of remembrance was?
 - a. What was it written to remember?
 - b. Who was it written to remind?
2. Do we have anything like this today, documents that are written up to give people opportunity to officially name themselves among the faithful? (See the Nashville Statement as one example.)
3. What is so important about this?
 - a. How does it make more tangible the opportunity to stand up and be counted?
4. Have you ever signed your name to a statement of commitment to the LORD similar to this one?
 - a. What is the public role of these documents?

- b. How does doing so effectively put a target on your back?
- c. Do you think those mentioned in this passage had a target on their backs from that day forward in the community?
- d. Do you think a Christian should feel more comfortable with a target on their back or without? Which do you feel right now?

KTFK: our backs, / distorts the / the lie / not to / called to / hide in / facts. / live this / We were / shadows while / life with / targets on

Song: “Days of Elijah”

Prayer: “Lord, forgive us for hiding in the shadows and seeking to pacify our consciences by rationalizing our cowardice. Help us to stand up and be counted in the days in which we live. Amen.”

Thursday, March 23

¹⁷ *“They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.*

¹⁸ *Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.*

1. When is the LORD going to be making up his treasured possession?
 - a. How certain are you that you will be in it?
2. What will this group of people be spared from?
3. How does this relate to the overall theme of this book and series?
4. What does God mean by saying that he will spare them “as a man spares his son who serves him”?
 - a. How does a man spare a son who serves him?
 - b. What is most important to that man about his son?
5. What is the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve him?
6. To what degree do you look at the central call of your life being to serve God?
 - a. To what degree does God look at your life that way?

KTFK: to spoil, / to serve / that means / cause us / God’s love / will not / are called / for we / for we / him and / daily toil. / his children

Song: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Prayer: “LORD God, forgive us for ever thinking that your love for us is one in which you simply seek to spoil us – as though our lives were to be one sunny vacation day after another. Thank you that your love for us is real and seeks our true good. Help us to love and serve you throughout the days of our lives that we may distinguish ourselves from the wicked and so be part of your treasured possession. Amen.”

Friday, March 24

¹⁷ "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.

¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

1. In what way do the events of this section serve as a culmination of the purpose of this book?
2. To what degree do you believe our own congregation is embodying this kind of group?
3. How helpful has this series been for you to take a more firm grasp on these things?
4. How important in your life is it to be a part of a group of people who are joined in their firm commitment to serve the LORD according to his word?
5. What do you receive by being a part of this group?
6. What does the group receive by your being part of this group?
7. How great is the grace that God has given us that we should find ourselves where we are in our relationship to him?

KTFK: to be / forever. / as the / grace we / the LORD / Oh what / joined together, / children of / serving him / have received

Song: "I Will Glory in My Redeemer"

Prayer: "All glory be to you, LORD God, for your infinite love and grace to us. Help us not to receive this grace in vain, but to embrace our identity in you to its fullest for the glory of your name, and for the eternal good of us and of our children's, children's children. Amen."

Saturday, March 25

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Mar 20 - Though the / critics charge / them with / schism and / division, those / who fear / the LORD / today must / make a / clear decision.

Mar 21 - The LORD / will hear / and celebrate / when those / who fear / him meet, / to join / themselves in / firm commitment / and live / his word / complete.

Mar 22 - We were / called to / live this / life with / targets on / our backs, / not to / hide in / shadows while / the lie / distorts the / facts.

Mar 23 - God's love / for we / his children / will not / cause us / to spoil, / for we / are called / to serve / him and / that means / daily toil.

Mar 24 - Oh what / grace we / have received / to be / joined together, / as the / children of / the LORD / serving him / forever.

Family Worship 2023 March 20 - 25 Malachi 3:16-18

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily
KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, March 20

¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.

1. Far too often, those among God's people who truly fear him are a small sub-set of the larger group that claims to. This seems to be the case here.
 - a. What hesitation might this group of people have to the idea of getting together and talking?
 - i. What accusations might they face from the rest of the community?
 - b. Under what kinds of circumstances would members of this group rise above those concerns and get together anyway?
 - c. Why do you think it is necessary for those who truly fear the Lord to meet together outside of the broader group?
 - i. How do they benefit from it?
 - ii. How do their children benefit from it?
 - iii. How does God benefit from it?
 - iv. How does the broader community benefit from it?
 - d. What do you think this group talked about when it got together?
 - e. Do you believe that a similar thing is happening among God's people today?
 - i. Where do you see it?
 - ii. Are you a part of it?

KTFK: division, those / make a / who fear / critics charge / schism and / Though the / the LORD / clear decision. / them with / today must

Song: "Find Us Faithful"

Prayer: "Lord God, I pray that in our day you would continue to draw those who truly fear you together that they might be able to give voice and demonstration to true faith and the truth of your word, securing themselves and their children firmly in a saving faith and drawing many others to their side from the dying world around. May they not fear coming together, but rather eagerly seek it and cherish it. Amen."