

Sermon Notes

“Turning Hearts, Part V”

“Responding to the Love of God...With Proper Priorities”

Malachi 3:6-15

3/19/23

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) I have a _____ question for you today, but it will have to _____ just a bit.
- 2) For the last few weeks we have been considering these verses and their _____ to our own lives and the _____ in which we live.
 - a) With a great concern for the growing _____ of our time and the _____ of our children...
 - b) Hearing this _____ of Elijah, our hearts turn more _____ toward the Lord for our, and our children’s sake.
- 3) Thus far, we have seen:
 - a) That our turning can only be _____ by a profound understanding of God’s _____ to us.
 - b) That the overall response to this love will be lives of _____.
 - c) That central to this act of turning is a _____ concern for true _____.
 - d) That hearts which are truly turning back toward the LORD must be hearts of _____ faithfulness.
- 4) Today we see that hearts that are turned _____ the Lord are hearts focused on _____ priorities.
 - a) There was a _____ among the people:
 - i) They were robbing God of the _____.
(1) 1/10 of their _____, fruit, and _____. (as much as **20%**?)
 - b) But, this presents us with a bit of a _____ as well.
 - i) Tithing laws were part of the civil/ _____ law and are _____ part of the New Covenant.
(1) We have gone from law to _____, from calculation to _____.
(2) Making it _____ now to know whether the _____ tithe has been brought in.
 - ii) This passage (and its emphasis on the _____) can easily foster wrong _____.
(1) Making it more about what we will _____ rather than what we will _____.
 - (a) When we already know that God is _____ their _____.
 - (b) We already see some of this in their _____. (vs. 14-15)
 - (c) And we don’t want to _____ this in ourselves.
 1. Especially when we know that this promised reward is not for all _____ and _____.
 1. We do have the promise of _____ as we seek first the kingdom. (Mt. 6:31-33)
 2. But, this provision may not come through _____. (II Cor. 8:14)
 - (2) Their _____ is supposed to be an expression of their love, not the _____ for his blessings.
 - (a) This promise of God must be understood within its _____ and _____ context.
 - (b) It is then that we see that God’s concern here goes _____ than the _____.

- c) The first part of that deeper look into the context is to recognize that the tithe was for the _____ of his _____ and its attendants. (vs. 10, Num. 18:21-22)
- i) God's concern for the _____ is primarily a concern for his _____.
 - (1) And secondarily a concern for the _____ his people for his house.
 - (2) God's house was his _____ place among them.
 - (a) As they attended to _____, they attended to _____.
 - (3) We see a similar concern for these people a few years earlier through _____. (Hag. 1:1-11)
 - (a) The rebuilding of his house could not be _____ to theirs.
 - ii) Their ongoing issue, then, was a lack of concern for the _____ of _____.
- d) The second part of that deeper look into the context is to recall that the _____ of the LORD was always to be at the _____ of their community.
- i) _____ at first. (Num. 2)
 - ii) _____ always. **(Deut. 12:1-14)**
 - iii) The house of God was to be at the center of their _____ because their _____ for God and one another was to be at the center of their lives.
 - iv) The _____ God is identifying here is that it _____.
- 5) But, is this really any different _____?
- a) The church is the _____ of God, the place where his _____ resides. **(I Cor. 3:16)**
 - b)** The church is the _____ of Christ, where we _____ play an important role. **(Rom. 12:3-13)**
 - c)** The church is the _____ of God, where joy and fellowship and _____ abound. **(Acts 2:42-47)**
 - d) The church is the mechanism through which the manifold _____ of God is made known to the rulers and authorities in the _____ places. **(Eph. 3:8-12)**
- 6) Stated simply, if you _____ God you are _____ to the church.
- a) While this involves our _____, it is much more than that.
 - i) It includes our _____, our attention, our _____, our labors.
 - b) The church, the place where he has placed his name, is to be at the _____ of our lives and culture.
- 7) Here is the Challenging Question: _____?