
Study Resources:

	Bible Project Overview Video		Free commentary with notes on the background, context, etc.
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Big Idea: God answers our doubts about His justice not with explanations, but with His refining presence.

1st Takeaway: Jesus purifies our hypocrisy so we can reflect His righteousness in a broken world.

2nd Takeaway: Jesus purifies His people as we desire the fear of the Lord.

Read

Read this study's text out loud. Malachi was meant to be read aloud in front of a group of people. By reading it aloud, we can hear the rhythm and flow of the prophecy.

Head

1. Read Mark 1:1–15 and Matthew 11:1–25. How do the events in these stories parallel Malachi 2:17–3:1? Keep in mind that the words of Malachi were spoken about 580 years before the events in the gospels. What are the roles of each messenger, and how are they fulfilled in the New Testament?
2. The purification process of Malachi's day would begin within God's sacred Temple and then with the Levites, the religious leaders. Why is it important that God's refinement, cleansing, and purification start within the church and those who claim to be disciples? Then move outward into society, culture, etc.?

Heart

3. The message gave a warning about a danger: we often confuse God's slowness to intervene with God's indifference. How can this undercut a right view of God? What are some common situations that cause people to think God is uncaring and indifferent because he hasn't acted? What about your own life, do you ever think God is indifferent or unconcerned with your life issues?

4. Read Matthew 7:3-5. What does it look like in your life to be focused on the "log in your own eye" before pointing out the "speck" in someone else's? How can hypocrisy, falseness, or duplicity damage a relationship or break trust? How does it make you feel when someone is pointing and judging your wrongs while ignoring their own areas? What's your typical response, and what is the right, God honoring response? Do you think it's ever appropriate to address the issue with the person?

Hands

5. The sermon asks: "What's 1 area you need purification?" What is a specific attitude, word, or action in your life that you need to surrender to the Lord Jesus for refining right now?

6. Consider in 3:5 how it describes how the people lacked the "fear of the Lord." What is the difference between *fearing* God and being *afraid* of God? Over this next week, how can you foster and develop a healthy "fear of the Lord" that will motivate you to practice righteousness and right living in your daily life and relationships?