

Malachi's third and fourth disputes occur in this section. Not only does Malachi address the people in general here, but he does so directly, as one of them, rather than on behalf of God. The first deals with how the people have dishonored the Lord in their interaction with each other, namely in marriage. The second attacks the justice of God.

Malachi 2:10-3:5

Israel

Wearies the LORD

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

Faithfulness and justice share an interesting relationship. As Christians we are not only called to walk by faith, but we are also called to be faithful in the stewardship of our gifts given us by God. When we, or those around us, don't operate in obedience to these things (when people aren't faithful) we tend to demand justice, often on *our* terms.

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT does it mean to be *full of faith*?

EXPLAIN the difference between being *full of faith* and being *fully faithful*?

HOW are Christ followers called to be faithful, specifically?

EXPLAIN what unfaithfulness might look like in a Christian context.

HOW as Christians are we to determine justice in regards to faithfulness? **WHAT** about when it involves those outside the church?

Malachi 2:10-3:5

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Malachi 2:10-3:5

OBSERVATION

What three questions does Malachi open with in vs. 10?

According to vs. 11, what has Judah done?

What is the consequence for Judah's action in vs. 12?

Describe the second thing Malachi addresses in vs. 13.

In vs. 14-16, what explanation does Malachi give regarding why the Lord no longer accepts their offerings?

How has Judah wearied the Lord (vs. 17)?

According to 3:1-2, what is the Lord's response to Judah?

In vs. 2-3, how is the messenger's coming described and what is the result (vs. 4)?

List those vs. 5 specifically describes God's judgement coming to, and for what particular reason.

INTERPRETATION

What is the covenant Malachi references in vs. 10? (See Exodus 24:1-8)

What is an abomination (vs. 11)?

Why does God describe the sin Judah has committed as an abomination? Why does He take faithfulness in marriage so seriously (2:15-16)? Consider Exodus 34:16-18, Ephesians 5:22-27

What connection can you draw from the way the people have "wearied" the Lord in vs. 17 and Isaiah 5:20?

Who is the messenger God speaks of sending in 3:1 to deal with the injustice of Judah? See Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 11:11-14 for insight.

When you read of the Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-13, connecting Malachi 3:1-6, how does the Lord ultimately deal with Israel's unfaithfulness and their accusation of Him being unjust?

APPLICATION

How does experiencing Christ's faithfulness make you more faithful?

How does knowing the Gospel allow you to find know true justice?

Who do you need to forgive that has been unfaithful to you in light of the forgiveness you have received for being unfaithful to God?