



The Lord is a **WITNESS**

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Day 1: When God Seems Silent

Devotional:

Have you ever watched something unfair happen and wondered where God was? You are not alone. God's people have wrestled with this question for thousands of years. In the book of Malachi, Israel had grown so frustrated with God's apparent inaction that they began to assume the worst. They thought that because God had not judged the evil around them, He must somehow be okay with it. That is a dangerous place to land. And if we are honest, most of us have been tempted to go there. But here is the truth worth holding onto: God's silence is not God's approval. His patience is not indifference. He sees every injustice. He knows every wrong. And He is not absent. When life feels unfair and God feels far away, the question we have to answer is this: do we trust who God is, even when we cannot see what He is doing? Your answer to that question will shape everything about how you walk through hard seasons. God is good, holy, just, and all-knowing. What you already know about Him is enough to carry you through what you do not yet understand. Start there. Hold onto that. Let what you know about God anchor you when what you see around you tries to pull you under.

Bible Verse:

"You have wearied the Lord with your words. But you say, 'How have we wearied him?' By saying, 'Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and he delights in them.' Or by asking, 'Where is the God of justice?'" - Malachi 2:17

Reflection Question:

When life feels unfair, do you find yourself questioning God's character, or do you lean into what you already know to be true about Him?

Sermon Quote:

"Your answer to that question might just define your life."

Prayer:

Lord, when I cannot see You moving, help me to trust that You are still at work. Anchor me in who You are, even when I do not understand what You are doing. Amen.

Notes:



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Day 2: God Is Never Late

Devotional:

Waiting is hard. Especially when something feels urgent. When someone you love is hurting, when an injustice goes unaddressed, when you have prayed the same prayer for months or even years, it is easy to wonder if God has forgotten you. He has not. When Jesus received word that His friend Lazarus was sick, He did not rush. He waited. And by the time He arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. To everyone watching, it looked like Jesus had missed it. But He had not missed anything. He was right on time, His time. God does not operate on your schedule or mine. He is not bound by our sense of urgency. But here is what we can count on: He is never early, and He is never late. He is always exactly on time. This is not a reason to grow passive. It is a reason to grow confident. When God delays, it is not a mistake. It is purposeful. His timing is not a reflection of His indifference. It is a reflection of His wisdom. Trust that today. Whatever you are waiting on, God has not forgotten it. He is working, even now, in ways you cannot yet see.

Bible Verse:

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." - James 1:2-3

Reflection Question:

Is there an area of your life where you have been tempted to interpret God's delay as God's absence?

Sermon Quote:

"God always works right on time. Even when your time is not the same as God's time, God's time is always right."

Prayer:

Father, teach me to trust Your timing even when it does not match mine. Help me to rest in the truth that You are always working, even when I cannot see it. Amen.

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Day 3: Closer Than You Think

Devotional:

When you are in the middle of a painful season, it can feel like God has stepped back. Like He is watching from a distance, waiting for things to settle before He shows up again. But that is not how He works. Malachi 3 gives us a beautiful picture of a refiner sitting close to the fire while his gold is in the furnace. He does not walk away. He stays near. He watches carefully. And he keeps the heat exactly where it needs to be until he can see his own reflection in the metal. That image is meant for you. God is not far from your fire. He is right there in it with you. And He is not being careless. He is being intentional. He is using what is hard to shape something beautiful in you. This does not make the fire feel less hot. But it does change what the fire means. It is not punishment. It is not abandonment. It is refinement. God is working in your difficulty to make you more like Him. So instead of only asking God to get you out of it, try asking Him what He wants you to get out of it. That shift in perspective can change everything about how you walk through a hard season.

Bible Verse:

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord."

- Malachi 3:3

Reflection Question:

What might God be trying to shape or refine in you through the difficulty you are currently facing?

Sermon Quote:

"A refiner is never far from the fire while his gold is in the furnace."

Prayer:

God, help me to see my struggles through Your eyes. Remind me that You are near in the fire, and that You are using it for my good and Your glory. Amen.

Notes:



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Day 4: What God Is Making You Into

Devotional:

Nobody signs up for hard seasons. But hard seasons have a way of doing something in us that comfortable ones never could. They expose what we are made of. They reveal where our trust actually lives. And in the hands of a good God, they become the very tools He uses to make us more like Him. God's ultimate purpose in everything He does, and everything He allows, is that you would look more like Jesus. That is not a small goal. It is the most significant transformation a human life can undergo. This means that your circumstances are not random. Your pain is not wasted. God is not standing by while life falls apart. He is actively at work, using what is hard to produce something holy. James 1 reminds us that trials produce perseverance, and perseverance produces maturity. Romans 8:28 tells us that God works all things together for good for those who love Him. Not some things. All things. You may not be able to see the finished product yet. But the Refiner can. And He is not done with you. Keep going. Keep trusting. The work He has started in you is worth every moment of the process.

Bible Verse:

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." - Romans 8:28

Reflection Question:

How does knowing that God's goal is to make you more like Jesus change the way you view your current struggles?

Sermon Quote:

"Sometimes when God doesn't remove the fire, He's using it. Sometimes when God doesn't change your circumstances, He's using your circumstances to change you."

Prayer:

Lord, I trust that You are working all things together for my good. Help me to surrender to the process and to become who You are shaping me to be. Amen.

Notes:



Day 5: Even If He Does Not

Devotional:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood before a king who had the power to end their lives. They were given a choice: bow or burn. Their answer is one of the most courageous statements in all of Scripture. They said that God was able to save them. But even if He did not, they would not stop trusting Him. That is the kind of faith that does not depend on outcomes. It is not faith that says, "I will trust God if He comes through." It is faith that says, "I will trust God no matter what." This is where the journey of these five days has been leading. We have seen that God is not absent in our questions. His timing is not a mistake. He is near in the fire. He is making us more like Jesus. And one day, He will right every wrong and wipe away every tear. But until that day comes, we are called to hold on. To keep trusting. To refuse to let our circumstances define what we believe about God. Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning. Your morning is coming. Do not give up before it arrives. God is faithful, and He is worth trusting with everything you have.

Bible Verse:

"Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning" - Psalm 30:5b

Reflection Question:

What would it look like for you to say, "Even if God does not, I will still trust Him," in the area of your life where faith feels hardest right now?

Sermon Quote:

"Even if God does not, don't stop trusting Him."

Prayer:

Father, give me the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Help me to trust You completely, not because of what You do, but because of who You are. Amen.

Notes:
