



The Lord is a **WITNESS**

THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Day 1: It Was Never About You

Devotional:

It is easy to treat faith like a transaction. We obey, we serve, we show up, and somewhere in the back of our minds, we expect things to go well. When they do not, doubt creeps in. We look around at people who seem to have it all together without God, and we quietly wonder if any of this is worth it. Israel wrestled with the same thing. They had placed themselves at the center of a story that was never theirs to own. And when life did not match their expectations, their faith began to unravel. Here is the reset we all need: this story belongs to God. He is the author, the subject, and the purpose. We are not the point. We are invited in by grace, and that invitation is extraordinary. But the moment we make ourselves the center, we will always be disappointed. When you remember that the story is about Him, everything shifts. Obedience is no longer a bargaining chip. Worship is no longer conditional. Service is no longer about what you get in return. You are part of something far bigger than your circumstances, your comfort, or your timeline. That is not a demotion. That is actually the most freeing truth you will ever hold onto.

Bible Verse:

“‘You have spoken arrogantly against me,’ says the Lord. Yet you ask, ‘What have we said against you?’” - Malachi 3:13

Reflection Question:

In what areas of your life have you been treating your relationship with God as a transaction rather than an invitation into His story?

Sermon Quote:

“If we forget who the story’s about, we might be convinced that the story’s about us.”

Prayer:

Lord, forgive me for making myself the center of a story that belongs entirely to You. Help me to trust Your purpose even when I cannot see the outcome. Amen.

Notes:



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Day 2: God Is Taking Notes

Devotional:

Have you ever done something good when no one was watching? Maybe you held your tongue when you had every right to fire back. Maybe you served quietly behind the scenes while others got the credit. Maybe you kept showing up to church, kept praying, kept believing, even when it felt like nothing was happening. God saw it. Every single moment. In Malachi, while many were walking away from their faith, a faithful remnant gathered together and spoke openly about their love for God. And something remarkable happened. God listened. He did not just notice them in passing. He recorded them. A Book of Remembrance was written for those who feared His name. That means your quiet faithfulness is not invisible. The kind word you chose over the harsh one, the moment you stood for your faith when the room went silent, the prayer you prayed when no one else knew you were struggling. God is writing it all down. Not because He is forgetful. But because He wants a permanent record of every person who chose to honor Him. You are seen. You are known. And you are remembered by the One who matters most.

Bible Verse:

"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name." - Malachi 3:16

Reflection Question:

How does knowing that God is actively recording your acts of faithfulness change the way you approach the ordinary, unseen moments of your day?

Sermon Quote:

"Every time you stand for your faith, when everyone else in the culture seems to be avoiding it, God says, I'm writing it down."

Prayer:

Father, thank You for seeing me even when no one else does. Help me to live faithfully in the small moments, trusting that nothing done in Your name is ever wasted. Amen.

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Day 3: The Mark That Matters

Devotional:

We live in a loud world. Voices that reject God seem to dominate every conversation, every headline, every comment section. It can feel like those who fear the Lord are a shrinking minority, drowned out by the noise. But God is not confused about who is who. In Malachi, God makes a striking promise. He will distinguish between those who fear Him and those who do not. The distinguishing mark is not wealth, status, or influence. It is the fear of the Lord. A reverence for God that shapes how you live, how you speak, and how you treat others. Fear of the Lord is not about being terrified of God. It is about taking Him seriously. It is the posture that says, what God thinks of me matters more than what the culture thinks of me. It is choosing His way when every other option seems easier. In a world that celebrates self-sufficiency and dismisses reverence, that kind of faith stands out. And God notices. He is not confused by the noise. He knows exactly who belongs to Him, and He calls them His treasured possession. You do not have to be the loudest voice in the room. You just have to be faithful to the One who is writing it all down.

Bible Verse:

“On the day when I act,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him.’”
- Malachi 3:17

Reflection Question:

What does it look like practically for you to live with a fear of the Lord in the specific environment where God has placed you right now?

Sermon Quote:

“The distinguishing mark of those whom God recognizes is a fear of the Lord.”

Prayer:

God, give me the courage to take You seriously in a world that does not. Let my life reflect a reverence for You that is visible, genuine, and consistent. Amen.

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Day 4: A Day of Judgment and a Day of Grace

Devotional:

Malachi does not end gently. There is a day coming, and it is described as a burning furnace for those who have rejected God. That is not comfortable to sit with. But it is honest, and honesty is a form of love. God may be slow to anger, but slow does not mean never. There is a real reckoning ahead. And the same passage that warns of judgment also promises something breathtaking for those who fear His name. The sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. A day of grace, restoration, and joy. Both realities exist in the same passage because both are true. God is just and God is merciful. He does not ignore sin, and He does not abandon those who trust Him. This is not meant to frighten you into faith. It is meant to remind you that the stakes are real and the grace is real. The forerunner promised in Malachi came in the person of John the Baptist. The Savior came, died for sin, and rose from the dead. The door of grace is still open. If you are in Christ, the coming day is not one to dread. It is the moment everything broken gets made right. Hold onto that hope.

Bible Verse:

"But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves." - Malachi 4:2

Reflection Question:

How does holding both the reality of God's judgment and the reality of His grace together change the way you share your faith with people around you?

Sermon Quote:

"There is a day coming, and it's a day of judgment. But it's also, the Bible says, a day of grace."

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that Your justice and Your mercy are not in conflict. Help me to live with urgency and hope, knowing that the door of grace is still open. Amen.

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Day 5: Remember, and Hold On

Devotional:

Malachi closes the Old Testament with a simple but urgent command: remember. Remember the law. Remember the promise. Remember who God is and what He has said. Four hundred years of silence would follow before John the Baptist arrived to prepare the way. And then Jesus came. He came as a child, born in a manger, and He lived among us. He died for our sin and rose from the dead. And He is coming again. Not as a helpless infant, but as a reigning King. The whole sweep of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, is moving toward that moment. In the meantime, we are not left without direction. We have His Word. We have His promises. We have the record of His faithfulness across thousands of years of human history. And we have the assurance that every act of faithfulness, no matter how small, is being remembered by God. So hold on. Keep showing up. Keep serving. Keep speaking about your faith even when the room goes quiet. The story is not over. In fact, the best part is still ahead. Remember who the story is about, and let that truth carry you through whatever comes next.

Bible Verse:

"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel." - Malachi 4:4

Reflection Question:

What specific truth from God's Word do you need to hold onto right now to keep you faithful until He returns?

Sermon Quote:

"Our Savior, Jesus Christ, will come again. And He will come no longer as a helpless child, but as a reigning King."

Prayer:

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word as an anchor. Help me to remember Your promises, to live in light of Your return, and to trust that You are faithful to finish what You have started. Amen.

Notes:
