

Sunday, February 26, 2023



“Ready, Set, Go?”
Malachi 3:7-18

How has shame impacted your life? What was the outcome

Malachi is the last book in our Old Testament. It was God’s final word to his people before the notable “400 years of silence.” Malachi is writing to the Jews about 100 years after their return to Jerusalem after the exile. They had all they needed to start over, and yet they found themselves duplicating the behaviors and attitudes that they had before the exile. Malachi the prophet speaks exclusively for God to his people reminding them again of their guilt and shame before him- and what He will do.

Read through Malachi. God there are a series of statements Israel makes to God, and responses God makes to them. See how many you can list and the verses.

#1 Israel says	God answers _____
#2 Israel says	God answers _____
#3 Israel says	God answers _____
#4 Israel says	God answers _____
#5 Israel says	God answers _____
Others? _____	

The healing from our guilt and shame in our relationship with God starts when I am.....

_____ by God’s promises.

“Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. (*Malachi 3:7*)

How can God’s promise of being with you be an encouragement to you today?

_____ about myself.

“Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, ‘How have we robbed you?’ In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. *Malachi 3:8-9*

What area of my life do I try to hide from God?

What area do I try to convince God I have under control when I know I do not? _____

_____ in God’s grace (*Malachi 4:1-3*)

“you will frolic like well-fed calves.” (*Malachi v2*)

Malachi ends with a word of encouragement. God justice and judgement will be satisfied. That at the end of all things, God will deal justly with all people, and his people will then fully understand his grace.

Read *Psalms 73* and how the psalmist deals with the injustice he is seeing. How can this psalm encourage you?

God through Malachi gives a look forward to the coming of Jesus, but also a further look ahead to Jesus’ second coming. (*Malachi 4:5*)

For us we live in the reality of Jesus’ first coming, and look forward to the second and final coming. How can the promise of his return help me with the shame and guilt I may be experiencing today?

Big Question:

- “How have I let God into the guilt and shame I may be experiencing in my life?

Next Week: “Guest Speaker, Rev. Paul Johnson, Cecil B. Day Foundation”