

Where is God
Malachi 4
Sermon Discussion Questions
August 16, 2020

1. This sermon concludes our series through the book of Malachi. As we read through the book one last time, is there a passage you think differently of now after hearing it taught and seeing the context? What do you think is the main point God, through Malachi, wants the hearers to understand? What do you think God intends for Calvary Church to know/understand from going through this book?
2. As a group, read Genesis 3 paying close attention to verse 9. The last question humanity asks God in Malachi is the first question God asks humanity in Genesis 3. Often, we feel as if God has left us when trouble arises. But it's actually our sin that pulls us away from God.

If you ever asked God where he was, did you ever stop to reflect that you were separated from him? Describe a time where God was noticeably there in your situation but because of sin, you questioned his involvement in it and his love for you.

3. Pastor Jim mentioned four aspects of God's coming from Malachi 4. He mentioned that this day will be called the day of the Lord, it will be a day of judgement for the wicked, a day of salvation and rescue for the righteous, and the day is connected to Moses and Elijah (both experienced appearances of God). As we encounter the difficulties of this world, do these four things in relation to God's coming provide you hope? Knowing this day is coming, what is our responsibility now as we navigate through the difficulties of this world?
4. As a group, **read Matthew 17:1-13**. A portion of Malachi 4 is fulfilled when Jesus is transfigured on a mountain with Moses and Elijah. The initial question of where is God is found in Jesus. Not just then, but also in the future. Pastor Jim provides four additional answers from Matthew 17 as to where Jesus is now: 1. He's present in the church. 2. He's with us in our suffering. 3. He's seen with eyes of faith. 4. He is coming again. Which of these four areas have you encountered Jesus profoundly in your life? How have you seen Jesus in these four areas over the last several months? How does it make you feel that Jesus is coming again and that we'll no longer ask the question of where he is?
5. The Old Testament closes with the ultimate question for our suffering and for life in this mixed up world. And the New Testament provides the great answer to this question, God in Jesus has drawn near to us and He's coming back again. Pray for the hearts of all people that they would repent of their sin and draw near to Jesus as he's drawn near to us. Pray for the hearts of those in Calvary Church, and those the Lord may send to hear His word, as we begin Revelation next week and examine the revealing of Jesus.