Introduction

When life is hard we can be tempted to doubt God’s goodness.

Sometimes the stories we hear in the news cause us to wonder about God’s justice and his care for his people.

Have you ever felt like that?

- Psalm 73 – Why do the wicked prosper?
- Habakkuk – How can you look upon evil?
- Revelation 6:10 – “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

It’s okay to wonder, but in Malachi they crossed the line from longing for his return to accusing God of injustice.

I. Our God is just. Malachi 2:17-3:5

How have we wearied him?

- By claiming that God has no standards of good and evil.
  
  “This is what the wicked are like, always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain I kept my heart pure; in vain I have washed my hands in innocence.” Psalm 73:12-13

- By accusing God of a lack of justice.

How does God answer this charge?

- “I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me.”
- “Then suddenly, the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple.”
- The Lord will come in judgment, but it may not be as pleasant as you think.

Who is speaking? God.

Who is the messenger? John the Baptist. Matthew 11:10, Mark 1:2 and Luke 7:27

Who is the one who will come? It is the Lord. It is Jesus.

But who can endure the day of his coming?
When he comes it will be to refine his people and judge his enemies.

- God refines and purifies us until he can see the image of himself in us.
- He will judge those who are sorcerers, adulterers, perjurers, defrauders and oppressors.

Are you ready for his coming?

II. Our God is faithful. Malachi 3:6-12

How does God answer this charge of unfaithfulness?

“I the Lord do not change!”

He is immutable in his character and attributes. And he keeps his promises.

In spite of their unfaithfulness, God has been faithful.

The remedy for their sin is to “Return to me, and I will return to you.”

How are we to return? In tithes and offerings.

Bring the whole tithe to me and see if I will not pour out a blessing until there is no more need.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Luke 6:38

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” II Corinthians 9:6-8

God is faithful and he will provide all that you need.

Conclusion

This life is about more than money and about more than saving for a comfortable retirement.

This life is about knowing God and walking with him every day, being part of his family and joining in his work.

When we live that way we are blessed.

God is just. You can trust him.

God is faithful. You can depend on him.