

Spiritual Apathy and Justice in Malachi

After God's people had returned to Israel from exile in Babylon, Malachi prophesied a message of caution and warning to them. Spiritual apathy was once again beginning to settle into their hearts. Through Malachi, God called out Israel's indifference and unfaithfulness to him. In our study of Malachi, we'll witness how out-of-sync life gets when we go through the motions of faith without investing our hearts. We'll examine our own hearts in light of Malachi's warnings about spiritual apathy and discover how our everyday faithfulness to God impacts our lives and communities. Together, let's explore how the timeless wisdom of Malachi illuminates our faith and transforms our worship.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What is apathy? Have you ever felt apathetic in your faith?
- Why do you worship? What motivates you to attend church and participate in a worship service?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Spiritual Apathy and Justice in Malachi](#)

READ [Malachi 1-4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney describe Malachi's charges against Israel's spiritual apathy in [chapter 1 verses 6-14](#): by going through the motions of meaningless worship, they defile God's name and offer sacrifices that show they don't care. What do you think spiritual apathy looks like today?
- What criteria would you use to judge whether your worship is disengaged or fully engaged, with a wholehearted desire to live for God?
- In what ways have you publicly expressed your commitment to following Jesus? Was it through confirmation, a profession of faith, or adult baptism? Or did your church call it something else? If possible, look up the liturgy that was used. What promises or vows did you make at that time?
- Reflecting on [Malachi 3:5](#), Darrell said, "God is on the side of the brokenhearted; he is on the side of the wronged and the oppressed and those who have their voices and rights taken away." Scott also reminded us that just as Jesus saw people in need and had compassion (i.e. [Matthew 14:14](#)), we are called to see and have compassion. Is it easy or difficult for you, as Scott put it, to "see the world through God's eyes of compassion"?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Proverbs 3:9-10](#), [Exodus 22:21-27](#), [Leviticus 19:9-10](#), [Zechariah 7:8-10](#), [Jeremiah 7:3-7](#), [Amos 2:6-7](#), [Micah 6:8](#), [Matthew 14:14](#), [Matthew 17:1-13](#), [Matthew 28:18-20](#)

CONCLUSION

Malachi and all the Minor Prophets called their original audiences to repent and turn to God's mercy, which we now know ultimately comes to us through Jesus Christ. How has studying the Minor Prophets opened your eyes to God's justice and mercy in your life? In what ways have you felt convicted, been encouraged, or found hope?

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