

## MALACHI: Live Fully Devoted

Lesson Two • Malachi 1:2-5

### The Greatness of God's Love

#### Missing the Obvious

We are often oblivious to God's obvious LOVE for us.

#### The Greatness of God's Love

### 1. God's Love for His People Is DECLARED!

*"I have loved you," says the Lord. Malachi 1:2*

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you." Jeremiah 31:3 HCSB*

### 2. God's Love for His People Is DOUBTED!

*Yet you say, "In what way have You loved us?" Malachi 1:2*

#### Why Do We Doubt God's Love?

Whether minor or major, SUFFERING has the power to cause us to doubt God's love.

#### How Do You Know When You're Doubting God's Love?

- When you don't believe God is PRESENT in your suffering.
- When you don't believe God is IN CONTROL of your suffering.
- When you don't believe God is GOOD because of your suffering.

### 3. God's Love for His People Is DEMONSTRATED!

*"Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" says the LORD. Malachi 1:2*

#### How Did God Demonstrate His Love?

- God demonstrated His love through the ELECTION of Jacob and the REJECTION of Esau.

*"Yet Jacob I have loved; but Esau I have hated." Malachi 1:2-3*

*For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger. As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." Romans 9:9-13 ESV*

- God demonstrated His love through the RESTORATION of Israel and the DESTRUCTION of Edom.

*"...and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness." Even though Edom has said, "We have been impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places," Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They may build, but I will throw down; they shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, and the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. Your eyes shall see, and you shall say, "The LORD is magnified beyond the border of Israel." Malachi 1:3-5*

#### How Do I Know God Loves Me?

The CROSS of Jesus Christ is the pinnacle display of God's love for you.

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. Ephesians 1:3-6 NIV*

#### Communion: Remembering God's Love at the Cross of Jesus Christ

Followers of Jesus Christ (those who trust Christ as Savior and commit to follow Christ as Lord) are invited to participate in Communion located at the four tables in the auditorium. You may take the bread and cup back to your seat. The bread and juice represent the body and blood of Jesus when He died on the Cross and reminds us who our Lord is, what He has done for us, is doing for us, and will yet do for us when He returns. Come, Lord Jesus, come!