



Malachi

Overview

Malachi is a bridge between OT and NT.

Malachi is structured using questions (1:2, 6, 7; 2:17; 3:7, 8, 13).

Picture in Malachi

Picture in New Testament

<p><u>Messenger</u> (title, 3:1; 4:5 as a continuation of 3:1)</p>	<p><u>John the Baptist</u> (Mt 11:14)</p>
<p><u>Levites</u> = <u>priests</u> (2:4, 8; 3:3, especially 2:7)</p>	<p><u>us (Christians)</u> (1 Pet 2:5, 9)</p>
<p>God's Name great among <u>nations</u>. (Mal 1:5,11,14; 3:12)</p>	<p>The 3-in-1 Name great among <u>nations</u> (Mt 28:19)</p>

Introduction

Discussion 1: Malachi--I never saw that before

Review the sermon outline and recall:

How does it serve as a bridge between the Old and New Testaments?

How and why are questions used? ¹

Discuss any other "I never saw/knew/heard that before" moments.

¹ For a deeper look at this, the ESV Study Bible introduction describes the "disputations" here: <http://www.esvonline.org/resources/introduction-to-malachi/>

Discussion 2: Ambassadorship

^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

If you are a trusting in Christ for your salvation, you are and ambassador for Christ. The question is: "what kind of ambassador are you?"

Below is an overview/outline of DSC's Ambassador training core series. Step through the sections and ask yourselves and one another--how equipped and prepared are you?

An ambassador is one who represents his/her sending Sovereign to a foreign (separated) people. To be an ambassador for Christ, we break it into three important areas: knowledge, wisdom, and character.

I. Knowledge "An Accurately Informed Mind"

A. The Sovereign you represent (Knowing God)

1. How we know God
2. His Nature
3. His Character

B. The message of the Sovereign (The Gospel)

1. What it isn't (life enhancement program...)
2. What it is. (Message of reconciliation)

C. Those to whom you represent the Sovereign (the culture)

1. Postmodernism, deconstructionism, relativism, ... uh?
2. The language (scaling the language barrier--what do they mean vs. what do you mean by words like: Truth, Love, Faith, Tolerance, ...)

II. Wisdom "A Discerning and Artful Approach"

A. What is it? What's it for? Why should we pursue & pray for it? What has become its unhealthy substitute?

* *God's chosen decision-making tool--not superstition or divination*

1. Deciding what's true (*discernment--The great evangelical famine*)
2. Deciding what to do

- B. Tactics--How to navigate in conversation and move it in a productive direction
 - 1. Using disarming/gentle (Columbo) questions.
 - 2. Logical fallacies--recognizing and helping others to recognize them
- C. Tools for Evangelism
 - 1. Christianity Explained, Christianity Explored
 - 2. Two Ways to Live, The Objective Gospel, tracts, ...

III. Character "A Faithful and Attractive Manner"

This is what will be starting up next week (actually the first week is an overview of the entire ambassador series intended for refresher/overview... repeatable! Then two weeks break before Ambassador III goes full swing. *Ambassador I & II are not prerequisites.*)

Though this may be the least interesting sounding, it is the one I'm (Rags) most excited about this time around.

2 Peter 1:5-8 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. **For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Who does Jesus want us to *be*?" ... ["More like Jesus."]

– We are often too quick to jump to “What would Jesus *do*?”

B. The fruits of the Spirit... present and growing

C. The perils of pride and promise of humility

– Lots of practical help from C. J. Mahaney