

Malachi Week 3

Profaned Priesthood

Memory Verse:

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

1) CATCH UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the day in and day out happenings of our lives. Because God is our Father we are family. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?

What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)? Are there any practical needs you have right now?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2) REVIEW THE MISSION

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit we have been sent as missionaries in everyday life to display God's glory and lead others to repentance and faith through belief in the gospel. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

We have friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, etc. in our lives that do not have saving faith in Jesus. This means, they are walking a path towards eternal punishment in hell. This should move our hearts and give us a sense of urgency to be missional. **Take a few minutes to pray for this reality to result in action in our lives.**

3) DISCUSS AND ENGAGE

Since we follow Jesus we seek to apply the Gospel continually to all of life. God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, to equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, to show us our sin, and to strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25).

Christians have a responsibility to represent Christ in both word and deed. In what ways have you been encouraged by other Christians who have done this well? Have you been personally hurt by others who have done this poorly?

Read Malachi 2:1-9

The first thing we need to do when reading the Bible is make sure we understand what it says. The next few questions are meant to have clear answers directly from the text:

- 1) What are supposed to be the qualities of a priest?
- 2) What does Malachi say the priests have done wrong?
- 3) What does God say he is going to do in response?

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Malachi corrects the priesthood in this passage, yet Peter teaches that all Christians are a part of the "royal priesthood". How can we apply Malachi's message to the priesthood to us and what it means to be the new royal priesthood of God?

Looking at Malachi 2:9 what comparisons can you make between the ideal priest mentioned here and Jesus?