



1-Duty vs Devotion

Malachi 1:1-2:9

1. What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening or troubling? Please explain.
2. Share a story of a time you did something crazy because of love, but it didn't feel that crazy to you in the moment. If you don't have a personal story, I am sure you have one of someone else 😊.
3. How is devotion in faith kinda like this? And how is religion much more like forced duty?
4. Read Malachi 1:1-5. When have you felt unloved and asked the question of God, "How have you loved me?" Often it is a circumstance or situation that motivates us to ask that question, which was it for you?
5. God showed his love to the nation of Israel at that time by loving (choosing to make a covenant with) Jacob, or Israel, and saving them from their enemies the Edomites. How has God "shown" his love for you in this time? How can difficult times or seemingly unanswered prayers cause us to forget how God has shown his love to us through the cross and the many other ways he does?
6. Read Malachi 1:6-2:9. How were the people (priests) dishonoring God? Now in the new covenant we have with God through Jesus, we don't bring animal sacrifices to God to earn his love, but the sacrifice we bring is because we have gained his love, it is response. Devotion in faith often turns to duty of religion. Why does this happen and how does it happen for you.
7. Colossians 3:23-24 is the new sacrifice we bring to God under Jesus. In what ways are you tempted to cut corners or not bring God your best? What would it look like to bring your best motivated by devotion to God for what he has done?
8. Pray for each other.