

SERMON NOTES: PREPARING FOR THE WORD THAT WALKS 1: HOLY, COMPLETE LOVE (25 October 2015)

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 1:1-5

A prophecy: The word of the Lord to Israel through Malachi.

“I have loved you,” says the Lord.

“But you ask, ‘How have you loved us?’

“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his hill country into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals.”

Edom may say, “Though we have been crushed, we will rebuild the ruins.”

But this is what the Lord Almighty says: “They may build, but I will demolish. They will be called the Wicked Land, a people always under the wrath of the Lord. You will see it with your own eyes and say, ‘Great is the Lord—even beyond the borders of Israel!’

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and took up residence among us.

KEY POINTS

- + We, like the Israelites, face the tension of what seems like disparity between the promise of the Lord’s Word, and the reality of the world.

- + We are invited into a different understanding of how God loves us: He loves beyond comprehension with a complete and holy love
- + The Word reads us. It corrects, shapes, refines, rebuilds, educates, loves.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + Reflect on the ways you currently engage with the Word of God. How can you embrace written Scripture in light of this message? What is your posture to the spoken Word of God, whether in your own experience or through others?
- + Do you ever find yourself asking God, “Really? How have you loved me?” What do these opening verses in Malachi speak to that wrestle?
- + God loves us completely, and His love is holy. Throughout our lives, His love faces us from different angles, sometimes correcting, sometimes moulding, sometimes deeply healing. What is the complete and holy love of God doing in you at this time?
- + The core message of Malachi is to prepare for the Word that walks. The spoken and written Word of God becomes incarnate in Jesus. How does this impact your understanding of God’s Word, and your interaction with Him today?