

SERMON NOTES: PREPARING FOR THE WORD THAT WALKS 4: GLIMPSES OF TOMORROW'S JOY, TODAY (15 November 2015)

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1

"See, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to His temple, the Messenger of the covenant you desire—see, He is coming," says the Lord of Hosts.

Malachi 4:2

But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings, and you will go out and playfully jump like calves from the stall.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

QUOTES

"Many think that if they had abundant wealth, absence of sorrow and suffering, good health, a good job, unrestricted gratification of appetites, and kind treatment from everyone, that would be blessedness indeed. But Jesus completely reversed that concept and substituted many of the very experiences we would like to sidestep—poverty, mourning, hunger, thirst, renunciation, persecution. True blessedness is to be found along this path, He told them." - *Oswald Sanders*

KEY POINTS

+ Many of the world's struggles are based in competing versions of the expectations of a future hope. In the West, we expect life to be fair (we know it's not but expect it to be for us),

equal treatment for all, and circumstances will make us happy.

- + As these are not met, the 'Great Disappointment' emerges as anxiety, entitlement, passivity and depression.
- + Our desires cannot be met in anything outside of God. All true joy and hope come from Jesus alone.
- + While this hope is in a complete joy that we will only know in the new heaven and earth, we get to see glimpses of it now.
- + We are to partner with the breaking out of Kingdom hope in this world, to 'look for where the light is coming through', and step into our role as ambassadors and standard-bearers of that hope.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + Where have you seen your desires being met in Jesus, perhaps when you had tried to fulfil them in something else?
- + What stands out to you about Malachi 3:1? In what ways is God preparing you for the arrival of His messenger?
- + How easy or hard do you find it to see those pinpricks of light coming through the curtain between our world today and our future Kingdom hope? What can you do to train your eyes to see these clearer?
- + Do you feel qualified to be an ambassador of the joy and hope that is found in Jesus? If not, what is keeping you from feeling worthy of taking up that mantle? Consider how God has equipped and used the most unlikely of people to bear His message. We are qualified in Christ alone.