

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

How Has the Lord Loved Us?

Malachi 1:1-2

1. The Oracle called “Malachi”, its Messenger, and its Recipients
See the Introduction and Outline

The Message – the Oracle – is from God;
the messenger of very secondary importance.

Israel around 425 (or so) b.c.

God’s “conversation” with His people (the dialogue form).

2. God’s First Affirmation: “I have loved you.”
The Lord’s first word to Israel.

An affirmation of BOTH saving love and grace.

AND going right up front to the heart of the issue
between God & His people.

The Lord’s first words to His church today.

3. Israel’s Reply: “How have you loved us?”

Not their actual words, but the words God puts in their mouth –
that reveal what is truly *in their hearts*.

Where they are coming from and what their question means.
Analogy of a marriage.

“God, You say you love us, but you have not treated us that way”.

Two-fold blindness:

- Blind to their sin and failure to love God (1:6 – 3:15).
- Blind to God’s amazing love for them.

Are you blind?

- Do you feel you’re not really so bad,
and deserve better from God than what He’s given.
- God calls us to self-examination and humble
acknowledgement of our sin and undeserving.
- God reveals His love to us in His Son, Jesus Christ,
and all of the saving mercies that flow to us
from His death and resurrection and reign in glory.