

**Wheelersburg Baptist Church 10/20/2024**

**Malachi 3:13-18 “When Life Is Hard, We Learn What We Really Think about God”**

*Series: Malachi: Great Among the Nations*

**Theme Song of Series: “Great Among the Nations” (Malachi 1:11)**

*My name will be great, great among the nations.*

*My name will be great, great among the nations.*

*From the rising to the setting of the sun, my name will be great, great among the nations.*

- I. There are people who \_\_\_\_\_ with God (13-15).
  - A. Such people \_\_\_\_\_ God (13).
    1. They say it’s vain to \_\_\_\_\_ God (14).
    2. They say it’s pointless to \_\_\_\_\_ God (14).
    3. They say it doesn't pay to be \_\_\_\_\_ (15).
  - B. Such people \_\_\_\_\_ themselves (15).
- II. There are people who \_\_\_\_\_ God (16-18).
  - A. It's evidenced by their \_\_\_\_\_ (16).
    1. They \_\_\_\_\_ God.
    2. They \_\_\_\_\_ one another.
    3. They \_\_\_\_\_ on God's name.
    4. They \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - B. It's evidenced by their \_\_\_\_\_ (17-18).
    1. God will \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous.

2. God will \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked.

**Make It Personal: What do I really think about \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. How do I respond when life is \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Am I living today in light of the \_\_\_\_\_ day?

**Community Group Discussion:**

1. The title of today’s message from Malachi 3 was, “*When Life Is Hard, We Learn What We Really Think about God.*” Think of a hard time in your own life. What did you learn about yourself during that experience? About God? About life itself?
2. Take time to read again Malachi 3:13-18. In this passage we meet two groups of people who responded in two different ways to their suffering. First, we meet those who fiddle with God. What does the verb *fiddle* mean? How does this term apply to the people described in verses 13-15?
3. In Malach 3:13 (NIV) the Lord said, “You have said harsh things against Me.” Do we ever do this? What are some examples of saying harsh things to God? What’s the difference between expressing appropriate grief and inappropriate complaining?
4. In verses 16-18, we are introduced to people who *fear the Lord*. What was the evidence of their fear of God? After reviewing this evidence, discuss how their example affects you personally.
5. Verse 16 says that “those who feared the LORD spoke with one another”. What do you think they talked about in their conversations with each other? Why are such conversations essential for us as well?