

The Great Distinction

Series – *First Pursuit: Pursuing the God Who Pursues Me*
– Malachi 3:13-18 –

Jesus taught that what comes out of the mouth reveals what is in the heart. We see the application of that in today's passage. Malachi presents two very different responses to God:

1. The Accusations of the Arrogant (vss. 13-15)

2. The Recognition of the Reverent (vss. 16-18)

Making a Distinction. . .

"And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not." – Malachi 3:18

Application Questions. . .

1. What part of the text or message had the greatest impact on you? Where were you most encouraged, intrigued, or challenged?
2. "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." God hears all our words. Is that comforting, convicting or both? (Matt. 12:34-37)
3. What sort of "harsh things" are the people of God saying against Him? What are some similar examples of harsh things you've heard believers say today?
4. Read Ps. 73 together. What attitudes might be undermining Asaph's faith? When have your feet slipped in this area, and what helped you recover your balance?
5. In verse 17 God refers to us as His "treasured possession." Relate this to how the book opens (1:1-5), and compare it with Eph. 1:13-14. What do these passages mean to you personally?
6. If you had to explain the distinction in vs. 18 using John 5:24, how would you put it? When did you come to understand this truth? How has it affected your goals and lifestyle?

