Sermon Discussion – 1 November 2026

Read *Malachi 2:17-3:5*

Getting Started

Have you ever complained about someone breaking a rule, only to turn around and break a rule yourself shortly after? How did you try to justify it?

When you look at the world today, what is an injustice or unfair situation that makes you ask, "Where is the God of justice?"

Group Discussion

- In v. 17, what does it mean to "weary the Lord with your words"? How does this text warn us about such a sinful practice?

- Read 3:1-2 again. God promises that the Lord they are seeking *will* come, but asks, "Who can endure the day of his coming?" Why is the coming of the Lord described as terrifying rather than just comforting?

- Look at the metaphors of the refiner's fire and fuller's soap in v. 2. What do these images teach us about how God changes and cleanses us? What is the difference between a fire that consumes and a fire that refines?

- List the specific sins God promises to judge in v. 5. What do these sins have in common, and why does God specifically highlight the exploitation of the vulnerable (widows, orphans, foreigners)?

Personal Reflection

- God focuses His refining fire on the "sons of Levi" (the religious leaders) first so they can bring acceptable offerings. In what areas of your life is God currently refining you so that your devotion to Him is pure?

- The passage concludes by pointing to the root cause of these sins: they "do not fear me." What does a healthy, loving "fear of the Lord" look like in a believer's life today?