

The Wilderness of God's Silence

Malachi 4

- Introduction

- “When I lay these questions before God, I get no answer. But rather, a special kind of ‘no answer.’ It is not the locked door. It is more like a silent, certainly not uncompassionate, gaze. As though He shook His head not in refusal but waiving the question. Like, ‘Peace, child; you don’t understand.’ . . . Can a mortal ask questions which God finds unanswerable? Quite easily, I should think. All nonsense questions are unanswerable. How many hours are there in a mile? Is yellow square or round? Probably half the questions we ask—half our great theological and metaphysical problems—are like that.”
—C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

- Discussion Questions

- Read Malachi 4
- The Wilderness of God's Silence Will Change You and Prepare You
 - Is Malachi 4 referring to Jesus' advent, or to his return at the end of times? Both/and? Does it make a difference?
 - If God wants us to believe in him, why does he remain so silent and far-off at times? Why is he not more active in the world?
 - When has God seemed silent in your life, and what did you learn? What can we learn from times of silence?
- In the Wilderness of God's Silence, We Remember
 - Why would Malachi tell God's people to remember the law of Moses during this time of silence? How does this help us know what to do in silent moments in our lives?
 - If God is silent in our lives, how can we know he is there, or how can we know that he is hearing us when we ask him for help and guidance?
 - How can we seek God in times when we feel far from him, or when we don't hear from him?
- In the Wilderness of God's Silence, See

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

- Read Matthew 11:14. In what way is John the Baptist Elijah the prophet? Why is it important the Elijah come before Jesus?
- Why would Malachi promise Elijah in this text? What's the importance of Elijah to the things he is discussing here?
- We are in a time of waiting right now, for Christ to return. What can we learn from this passage about how to live in this time?