

## RETURN TO ME

### **HE LOVES ME, HE LOVES ME NOT**

Malachi 1:1-5      Jeff Schreve

*The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi. “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have You loved us?” Malachi 1:1-2*

#### **Why do we tend to question God’s love for us?**

##### **1. Because we focus on our bad circumstances.**

A. Circumstances can be very misleading.

B. God works in ways we do not understand.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9*

##### **2. Because we forget our blessed history.**

A. Israel forgot what God had done for them.

*“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.” Malachi 1:2-3*

*“Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I loved Jacob (Israel);<sup>3</sup> but [in comparison with My love for Jacob] I have hated Esau (Edom) ....” Malachi 1:2-3 AMP*

*If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Luke 14:26*

1. He choose Jacob over Esau.

2. God set His love upon Israel.

*From all the people on earth, the LORD your God chose you to be his special people—people who belong only to him. Why did the LORD love and choose*

*you? It was not because you are such a large nation. You had the fewest of all people! But the LORD brought you out of Egypt with great power and made you free from slavery. He freed you from the control of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. The LORD did this because he loves you and he wanted to keep the promise he made to your ancestors. Deuteronomy 7:6-8 ERV*

**B. We forget what God has done for us.**

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8*

**3. Because we fail to see our promised future.**

*Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever." And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!" Malachi 1:4-5*

**A. Those who oppose God have no future.**

**B. Those who follow God have a great reward.**

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26*

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58*

**Have you responded to the love of God?**