

## Living in the Fear of the Lord

### Malachi 3:16-4:1

#### Student Devotional

Fame fades. Followers scroll past. Even people's attention comes and goes. But God sees what no one else does—and what He sees, He writes down.

Malachi shows us that even when the world forgets faithfulness, God never does. Every quiet act of obedience, every reverent conversation, every decision to honor Him when it would've been easier not to—He sees it all. And He promises a day is coming when the difference will be made clear.

This week, we're leaning into what it means to live in the fear of the Lord—not with anxiety, but with deep awe, holy reverence, and a quiet confidence that the One who matters most never forgets.

Let's walk in that kind of faithfulness—together.

### Day 1: God Sees What Nobody Else Does

**“Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name.” (Malachi 3:16, ESV)**

#### Think About It:

It's one thing to obey God when people are watching, when the room applauds, or when the rewards are visible. It's something else entirely to keep honoring Him when it feels like no one notices.

But in Malachi's time, a small group of believers stayed faithful. They didn't go viral. They didn't win popularity contests. They simply feared the Lord, spoke about His name with reverence, and kept going when others walked away.

And God noticed.

July 21 – **July 27, 2025**

He didn't just hear them—He paid attention. He didn't just see their choices—He wrote them down. That “book of remembrance” means your name, your loyalty, your decisions to fear Him instead of fitting in—they're never wasted.

So when faith feels invisible and obedience feels thankless, remember this: God is keeping track. And what He records, He rewards.

**Pray It:**

God, thank You that You see me. Help me keep fearing Your name when no one's watching—because You are.

**Do It:**

Write your name on a notecard and underneath it write: “God remembers.” Keep it with you this week as a quiet anchor.

## Day 2: You Belong to Him

**They shall be mine,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.’” (Malachi 3:17, ESV)**

**Think About It:**

In a culture that tells you to build your identity on performance, image, or approval, God offers something better: belonging.

He doesn't call the faithful “useful.” He doesn't call them “good enough.” He calls them His. His treasured possession. That means you're not just noticed—you're wanted.

When life feels unstable, this is the anchor: you are not random, invisible, or forgotten. You're claimed. And when the Day of the Lord comes, you won't be left out or overlooked. You'll be spared and held—like a father holding his child.

This is what reverence brings: not distance from God, but closeness. You don't serve Him to earn belonging—you serve because you already belong.

**Pray It:**

Father, help me remember today that I'm Yours. Not because I'm perfect, but because You are gracious. Teach me to live like someone who belongs to You.

**Do It:**

Look in a mirror and say aloud: “I am His.” Let that truth replace any other label trying to define you today.

## Day 3: The Difference Will Be Clear

**“Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.” (Malachi 3:18, ESV)**

**Think About It:**

There are days when it looks like compromise wins. The ones who cut corners get ahead. The ones who bend truth seem to rise. Meanwhile, those trying to follow Jesus quietly feel stuck, unseen, or left behind.

Malachi reminds us that faithfulness isn’t always obvious right now—but it will be. God promises there’s a day coming when the line between right and wrong won’t just be visible—it’ll be unmistakable.

This isn’t just about avoiding judgment. It’s about living for what lasts. In the end, the difference won’t be status or success—it’ll be whose name was written in God’s book.

Keep serving. Keep choosing integrity. You won’t regret fearing God—even if it costs you now. The reward won’t be missed. The line will be redrawn. And it will be worth it.

**Pray It:**

Lord, give me courage to keep living with reverence—even when the world blurs the line. Help me live for what You see, not what others celebrate.

**Do It:**

Think about one area in your life where faithfulness feels hard. Write it down and pray over it today, asking God to help you stay true.

## Day 4: Light Is Coming

*“But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” (Malachi 4:2, ESV)*

July 21 – **July 27, 2025**

**Think About It:**

Dark seasons feel endless. You wonder when healing will come. You wonder if joy will ever return. But God speaks directly to the weary: “The sun is rising.”

For those who revere His name, the Day of the Lord isn’t a threat—it’s a promise. It’s a sunrise breaking through the night, bringing not only justice, but healing.

This isn’t surface-level optimism—it’s deep restoration. Every wound, every ache, every moment you felt unseen is met with the warmth of His presence.

And then comes the joy: “You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” That’s freedom. That’s the joy of being unburdened. After a long season of waiting, you’ll be released into light and life.

That day is coming. And until it does—stay faithful.

**Pray It:**

Jesus, thank You that light is coming. When the world feels dark, help me remember Your healing is on the way. Let joy rise in me again.

**Do It:**

Go outside at sunrise or sunset and watch the sky shift. As the light grows, whisper: “You are still working.” Let creation remind you of His faithfulness.

## Day 5: Don’t Forget the Story

**“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.” (Malachi 4:4, ESV)**

**Think About It:**

When life feels unclear, God often takes us back to what He’s already said. He doesn’t give us new truth to distract us—He reminds us of timeless truth that anchors us.

Malachi closes with this call: “Remember the law.” Not just in your head, but in your life. Let God’s Word be your center, your guide, your guardrail when culture veers off-course.

We don’t need louder opinions. We need deeper roots. In a world that forgets, we are called to remember.

July 21 – **July 27, 2025**

And that kind of remembering doesn't just help us—it equips us to pass the truth on. When you build your life on God's Word, you become someone others can follow safely.

**Pray It:**

God, help me remember what You've already spoken. Teach me to love Your Word and live by it—especially when the world forgets.

**Do It:**

Read Malachi 3:16–4:2 aloud today. Then ask: “Am I living like someone who remembers?” Make one decision today to align your life more fully with His Word.

## **Conclusion: He Wrote Your Name**

God doesn't forget faithfulness. He writes it down. He treasures those who revere Him.

Even when your obedience is quiet... even when your reverence feels out of place in a loud world... even when you wonder if any of it matters—He sees. He remembers. And He promises that a day is coming when joy will rise, justice will come, and you'll be set free to run in the light.

Until then—live in the fear of the Lord. Live remembered. Live written down.

**See you Sunday.**

## Before We Gather

- Have you ever felt like your quiet obedience to God went unnoticed? What helped you keep going?
- What encouragement can we take from the idea that God “writes down” the names and actions of the faithful?
- How does the image of the “sun of righteousness” bring hope to those who are weary?
- What does it look like to “remember the law” and prepare our hearts in a world that forgets God?
- What does it mean that God “remembers” those who fear Him?
- How do we keep our faith strong when we feel overlooked?
- What part of Malachi’s final vision gives you the most hope?
- How can we live as people preparing for the Day of the Lord?
- Who in your life needs to see God’s faithfulness lived out in you?