

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: December 4, 2021
Advent Week 2
Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6
Theme: Turn

Becoming aware of the end of the universe as we know it that Christ will bring about, we are invited to repent, to turn from our attachments to the powers of death and destruction in this age and live out of the Spirit-led mission of the coming reign of God.

Read Malachi 3:1-4

1. The people of God (now, in the time just before Christ, and in the time of the prophets) were/are looking for a savior to change their situation. What did Malachi 3:1 say would happen to prepare the way for the coming of “the Lord you are seeking?” _____

2. What, according to Malachi 3:2-4, will happen when “the Lord [we] are seeking” arrives?
 - a. Who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand...?
 - b. He will be like a refiner’s fire.
 - c. He will be like a launderer’s soap.
3. How are things different after the Lord comes, according to 3:3-4?
 - a. Not much will really change. We’re all just sinners, after all.
 - b. The Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.
 - c. The offerings of Judah and Jerusalem (representing God’s people) will be acceptable to the Lord.

Read Luke 3:1-6

4. Luke tells the story of John the Baptist and identifies him as the voice calling in the wilderness of Isaiah 40:3-5. This is often associated with the “messenger” identified in Malachi 3. According to Luke 3:4-5 (quoted from Isaiah), what is the role of this messenger?
 - a. Prepare the way for the Lord.
 - b. Make straight paths for him.
 - c. To declare what is coming when he arrives...every valley shall be filled in and every mountain made low...
5. There is a lot of imagery in these words that may not make sense to us. What do these things mean?
 - a. Well, if the earth is sinful and the Lord brings salvation, there must be preparation required for the Lord to come.
 - b. Israel at the time of these words (both in Isaiah and when John the Baptist spoke them) would have understood that there is preparation required for the presence of God...they must be “consecrated.”
 - c. John (and Jesus) came preaching “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” This is probably the preparation that was needed.
 - d. The valleys being filled in and the mountains being made low sounds like the Lord would “Level the playing field.” Suddenly, those who thought they were above others are no longer and those who thought they were below are no longer.
6. If Jesus is returning soon...or even if we need the salvation that he can bring today...what do we need to do to prepare the way for His presence in our lives? _____
