

ADVENT SERIES – WEEK TWO SUMMARY

Prophet Malachi

- Around 400BC, one of the “minor prophets, last book of the Old Testament
- Sent to the Israelites who were tired of waiting for the Messiah and who had grown lazy and apathetic in their relationship with God
- Malachi 3: 1-3
- God purifies and refines us because of His relentless love.

Mary and Joseph

- They strove to remain faithful in big and little ways – little things with great love!
- Rather than blaming others or falling into self-pity, they chose to praise God.

Our Call to Allow God to Refine Us

- God deserves nothing less than our best.
- We must resist laziness, pride, selfishness – anything that presents an obstacle to our relationship with God.

Questions for Reflection:

- How mindful am I of bringing my best?
- Is my life’s song one of gratitude or complaint and self-pity?
- Have I taken short cuts and made excuses in my prayer? Do I fall into the trap of “good enough?”
- Do I guard my time in an overly selfish way?

Scriptures References for Prayer

- I Peter 1:6-7 “This is a great joy to you, even though for a short time yet you must bear all sorts of trials; so that the worth of your faith, more valuable than gold, which is perishable even if it has been tested by fire, may be proved – to your praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”
- Psalm 66:10-12 “God, you have put us to the test, refined us like silver, let us fall into the net; fire and water is over, you have led us out to breathe again.”
- Jeremiah 9:7 “And so, Yahweh declares, now I shall purge them and test them, no other way to treat the daughter of my people!”
- Zechariah 13:9 “I shall pass this third through the fire, refine them as silver is refined, test them as god is tested. He will call on my name and I shall answer him; I shall say, ‘He is my people,’ and he will say, ‘Yahweh is my God!’”