

GBUMC COMPASS

A Weekly Worship Guide

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Sunday, July 31, 2022



“Friends in Christ exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives.”

Sermon Recap

In this one chapter from the prophet, Malachi, we see the essence of the prophet's theme. We witness God's frustration - frustration toward a covenant people who have not kept their part of the covenant. Sound's familiar when we think back on Hosea and Micah, doesn't it?

Like other prophets, we sometimes struggle to read this critique because it feels like God is mad at us. But maybe, like a parent, this is one of those moments when God is not mad...just disappointed. God even raises the concern around tithing. Yes, tithing. As we read it, it raises the question, does God just want our money and all will be well again? Probably not – that doesn't match anything that we know about God. What we do know, though, is that tithing for the people of Israel was an extremely important practice and part of their covenant with God. Think about the how important it is for Detroit Lions fans to wear jerseys to the game. It's almost a must! For the Israelites to unfaithful in their practice of tithing would be like Lions fans no longer wearing jerseys to games. Like the fans losing their connection with the team, the Israelites we're giving up on a major way of connecting with God. In other words, the thing that helped them connect to God was no longer a priority for them. That's why God names it! It isn't out of God's need to fill some heavenly bank account, but rather a desire to help Israel to reconnect.

And finally, as the chapter comes to an end, we hear God point out the bitterness of the people – perhaps the very thing that led to the lack of tithing: “Our worship and fidelity doesn't seem to make any difference. The wicked still win.” God's reply? “I still see you!” “I still love you!”

Applied to My Life:

Pastor Brian used the example of the Lion's fans and their apparel. No matter your fanaticism, lets play with that analogy a bit. What jersey do you need to put back on? What spiritual practice, like tithing, do you need to recommit to? Ask yourself, where do I feel like I've been disconnected from God, and what might be the way back?

Other Worship Notes I Want to Remember: