



God sent Malachi with a message for His people. God would visit His people, Malachi explained. But they must be prepared for His coming and God would do the preparing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read and meditate on [Malachi 3:1-4](#). Jot down 1 or 2 new thoughts that seem important. Why are they important?
2. Think about [verses 1-4](#), in what ways will God's "messenger" be like a launderer's soap or a refiner's fire?
3. Read [Psalm 51:7](#). David was truly sorry for his adultery with Bathsheba and for murdering her husband to cover it up. He knew that his actions had hurt many people. But because David repented of those sins, God mercifully forgave him. No sin is too great to be forgiven! Do you feel that you could never come close to God because you have done something terrible? Do what [1st John 1:9](#) says to do.
4. In the process of refining metals, the raw metal is heated with fire until it melts. The impurities separate from it and rise to the surface. They are skimmed off, leaving the pure metal. Without this heating and melting, there could be no purifying. As the impurities are skimmed off the top, the reflection of the worker appears in the clear, pure surface. As we are purified by God, His reflection in our life will become more and more clear to those around us. Explain how others can see God in your life?

MOVING FORWARD

What In [Malachi 3:7](#) God says, "[Return to me, and I will return to you.](#)" If it is appropriate, pray a prayer of return to God. If this is not one of your own needs, pray for a friend or family member who you hope will either turn or return to God. Ask for His mercy. Picture this person as one of God's future treasured possessions, having been brought through His refining fire, and then ask God to bring it about.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

[“³ He will be like a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.”](#)

[Malachi 3:3](#)