SERIES TITLE: When Life is Dreary
PART ONE: **ATTITUDES**
TEXT: MALACHI 1

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

Malachi was written around the 5th century BC to the Jewish community after their return from Babylonian exile. Although the temple had been rebuilt and religious life had resumed, Israel had lost much enthusiasm for God, questioning His love, and treating worship as an obligation rather than a privilege. Through a series of pointed questions and confrontations, Malachi exposes their spiritual indifference, challenges their assumptions about God's character, and calls them back to genuine faithfulness. This four-week study reminds us of God's love, and that He will not allow us to remain content with an empty faith. This prophecy points directly to the birth of Messiah.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

The prophet begins his word to a doubting Israel with reassurance of God's holy love for his people, despite their dishonor of Him and His name. The people's attitude toward God is evident in the incredulous questions they ask, the tainted gifts they bring, and the corrupted worship they offer. It becomes clear that the real issue is not God's love for us, but our love for God.

FOCUS QUESTION

What are some important or amazing things that become routine and boring through time and repetition?

EXAMINATION

- Vv.1-5 What is the evidence of God's love and how is it connected to Esau and Jacob?

- How did God demonstrate hatred for Esau/Edom?

- Read Romans 9, particularly verses 11-18. How does this help in understanding the message of loving Jacob and hating Esau?

- Vv.6-8 What kind of honor is God looking for according to each verse?
    - V.6
    - V.7
    - V.8

- Vv.9-14 How and/or when will the Lord's name be great among the nations?
- How did God's people profane his table?

EXPLORATION

- Psalm 51:10-17
- Psalm 77
- Ezekiel 36:16-23
- John 4:23-24
- Philippians 2:5-11

APPLICATION.

- Can you think of a time when your difficulties were such that you doubted God's love?
- Have you been in a worship service or other spiritual setting and felt dreariness or dryness? If so, what were the indicators?
- What does it look like to give God leftovers in worship today?
- Do you have any practical ideas of how to keep the greatness of God foremost in your mind?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?