



Waiting For Love

Malachi 1:1-5

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1. Have you ever found yourself waiting for God to do something?
2. Have you ever had questions about what God was doing, and He wasn't sharing the answers with you?
3. Have you ever found yourself arguing (having a "discussion") with God about what God was doing or not doing?

THE MESSAGE verse 2a

1. God's first message through Malachi was "*I have loved you.*" What did God mean by this?

Need help? Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8. Consider also the meaning of "ahavad" = "relational love"

THE QUESTION verse 2b

1. What was the response of God's people? Why?
2. Is the response of God's people understandable? Justified? Something you can or can not relate to?

THE ANSWER verses 2c-5

1. What does God mean by "*Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated*"?
2. How do you feel about God choosing Jacob over Esau? Was God justified in doing so?

PROCESSING ALL THAT...

1. Read Isaiah 53 out loud together (slowly). Let what Isaiah is describing press into you. As you read, identify and consider the ways in which Isaiah describes:
 - 1) Our condition
 - 2) What Jesus endured on our behalf
 - 3) God's actions on our behalf
2. What does Isaiah 53 help you to understand about God's choice to love you?
3. What does Isaiah 53 help you to understand about John 3:16?
4. What does Isaiah 53 help you to understand about Romans 5:8?

BONUS QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean that God's love is objective and not subjective?
2. These days, what does it mean for you to know that God love for you is objective?
3. In the subjective "opportunities" of the coming week, how will you choose to stay focused on God's unchanging love towards you?
4. Who do you know who needs to know the message of God's love? Pray that God will give you an opportunity soon to share the good news with that person.