

# SERMON NOTES 1/17/26



**The church wants the suddenly manifestations of God in our midst, but we must become a people who continually seek Him, just to seek Him!**

1. At the end of **Malachi 2**, the people were complaining that God seemed to reward the wicked and not bring justice in the world, just like **Psalm 73**. God answers that He will come suddenly in **Malachi 3:1**. Jesus returns suddenly to a people in the Temple of Jerusalem, to the temple of the body of Christ, and in manifestations of His glory, but all are predicated upon a continuous posture of seeking God.
  - a. This seeking must be to seek God, with no expectation, but to linger in His presence simply because we are in His presence.
  - b. God is not transactional in that we earn His presence, rather He wants us “continually” to seek Him so our hearts and minds are aligned appropriately for the “suddenly” moments.
  - c. No matter your end time theology, we must embrace an optimistic filter for His return, rather than pessimistic. This sets us up to embrace presence over problems.
2. In **Exodus 33:8-11**, we see that Joshua spent 40 years in service to Moses learning to linger in God’s presence, “continually” and this developed his faith in becoming obsessed with God’s presence – then they “suddenly” went into promise. Acts 2:1-3, there was a 10 day prayer meeting of “continually” seeking God and “suddenly” they experienced a divine manifestation with God.
3. **John 2:1-11** talks of the water turning into wine miracle. Wine was used to celebrate the marriage covenant. When they ran out of wine, they lost what they could take joy in.
  - a. Jesus turned water into the best wine and the master of ceremonies called forth for the bridegroom in celebrating the best wine; the same will happen today in that when we allow God to transform us (water into wine) people will experience the wine of our celebration of being one with God, and they will in turn call for the bridegroom, that is Jesus.
  - b. The Wine of Religion is not the best wine; while it worked for a while, it does not bring a lasting joy, only the wine of authentic transformation in surrender to the Lord.