

## 12/01/18 - Be Not Afraid

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Malachi 2:17?3:5

Children and laundry are a packaged deal. In order to remove the stain, you have to deal with the stain. You can't ignore it. Often you have to apply a strong soap and some elbow grease to remove the stain.

The people of God have returned from the long exile. They have rebuilt the Temple. Things should be wonderful. But they are not. God assures them: "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me . . . the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come" (3:1). God is on the move. He will address the injustices that have risen amongst the people. Will his people be ready for this?

The stains?the injustices?will be cleaned "like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap," God will clear away the impurities. Those who have lived justly have nothing to fear. Those with the stains of injustice, however, will have to face the harsh "soap" and "elbow grease" God uses to purify his people. Allow God to clear away any stains that may impede your relationship with him and others.

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