

**Listening Guide: A Most Excellent Life I - Who Is Calling You to Excellence?  
Text: Malachi 1 and Proverbs 3:5-8.**

The Goal of this Series:

Facts on Malachi:

The Power of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Application:

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**Living a Most Excellent Life**

**Welcome:**

- I. We have 3 goals over the next 5 weeks. First, to get to know each other and establish some new friendships. Second, is to re-establish the standards of excellence in our own lives. This is the main point of Malachi to the Israelites. Third, to encourage each other to grow.

**1<sup>st</sup> Base: Get Connected:**

First, go around the group and have people introduce themselves by stating their name, how long they have been in Boise, and how long they have been a part of Foothills.

- Second, pass out 3x5 cards and a pen to everyone. Ask them to write down 3 facts about themselves that are unique. Here is the catch: 2 should be true and one should be false. (IE: lived in Guam, worked in a mortuary, ate a goldfish) Then go around the circle and have each person read their card out loud. Let everyone else in the group (except their spouse) try and guess which one fact is false.

## **2nd Base: Focus on the Bible:**

Tonight's main question: Are you satisfied with the current status of the life you are living? Could it be better? Should it be better?

Tonight's main point: God has given us one life to live and He can show us how to live it well.

- Text: Proverbs 3:1-12. (*Make sure everyone has a Bible*)
  - (*Read this to the group*) Proverbs is a book from the Old Testament. It is a book of wisdom. It is written in a poetic form and is designed to instruct.

Read verses 1-4 and have people answer these questions:

- According to vs. 2, what happens to our lives if we remember God's teaching and follow His commands?
- According to vs. 4, what happens to us if we keep from losing love and faithfulness?
- Read verses 5-8 and answer these questions:
  - According to vs. 5, how do we keep from losing love and faithfulness?
  - According to vs. 8, what happens to us if we follow God's leading?

## **3rd Base: Applying what we studied.**

Based on what you just studied, what is the impact on our lives when God calls us to a higher standard?

- 1) Think back on your life and remember a time when someone expected more out of you. What was the impact of that person's high expectations on your life?
- 2) As a parent (or imagine what it would be like), do you set high expectations or low expectations for your children and why?
- 3) Consider the impact of low expectations. What if children grow into adults without learning how to manage money because no one expected them to learn how or taught them basic standards. How does this lack of knowledge affect their adult years?

## **Home Plate: Taking it home.**

- When people we look up to expect more out of us, we tend to step up and do better. God expects more out of us not because He is disappointed in us, but because He believes in us more than we believe in ourselves. Where in your life do you need to embrace God's higher expectations?

Thanks for coming everyone and thanks for the conversation. Remember our goal to build new friendships and challenge ourselves to move forward with God. Next week we are going to study what Malachi has to say about excellence in our spiritual lives.