

MALACHI 3:6-7

“For The Lord does not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts but you say, how shall we return?”

The main part of this verse is about returning to God. Returning to God means repenting or asking for forgiveness for our sins and obeying his commands by living our life in a Godly manner. The only way to repent or be forgiven of our sins is to confess of them. Even though God knows all, it's good to confess anyway so God knows that you know you have sinned.

Returning to God can be hard, just like in the Israelites' case. God gave the Israelites many chances to return to him, but they never did. They had many prophets to tell them that God loves them very much and did very many, probably too many things, to get them out of trouble. The Israelites did not believe that God was really omnipresent, there with them, all the time, everywhere they went.

Even after all the Israelites did, God still loved them. Just like he loves us. Sometimes, we fail to return to him by sinning, disobeying, and breaking commandments. We sin everyday. So of course we fail to return to God. But that doesn't mean he hates us for it. He knows we fail to return, because that's what humans do. So he accepts us for who we are, and what we have become. Even though we sound like horrible beings, God has sacrificed his perfect son just to clear up our sins. That shows just how much God loves us: He gave up the thing he loved dearly just to save us from our sins and the devil's temptations.

So, “How shall we return?” All we need to do is believe and trust in Jesus, and our relationship with God will be restored. In this Advent season, we return to God because he came to us in the form of a baby in a manger.

