

## Warned by God

Jared began his message by sharing ways in which his parents love him. He noted that love come in the form of grace and love, but can also come in the form of warning.

1. Think of times or situations in which you have found love in the form of a warning to be true.

God gives the people of Israel a pretty harsh warning. In Malachi 2:2 he says "If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to my name, then I will send a curse upon you and I will curse you blessings." God reminds then that penalties for our choices are real. Even in a New Testament context, we are reminded that our choices matter. In Matthew 7:21-22 Jesus reminds us that many who attempt to enter the Kingdom will be turned away.

2. How do you think God disciplines His people today?
3. How do we ensure that we will be welcomed into the Kingdom of God?

Jared noted that God warned His people with the promise of penalty and with the promise of a person. We know this person to be Jesus.

4. How do think the Messiah could be an object of fear for the Israelites when Jesus is viewed as such an object of Joy for us? What makes us different than the Israelites of Malachi's day?

Jesus is set to return again. His promised return carries much of the same warnings as Malachi's prediction. Jesus will come in judgment.

5. Why should this bring us comfort?

If you have time, discuss how Jesus brings Joy into your world this Christmas season.