

SAT
MAY 14
2016

REBUILDING OUR FAITH

READ Malachi 3:6-12

I have loved you, says the Lord; but you say, "How have you loved us?"

— Malachi 1:2 (CEB)

Bills and paperwork for my struggling business were strewn around my cramped living space. I couldn't help but

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

In the midst of my troubles, where can I sense God's presence?

wonder if my surroundings were the ruins of a failed life, the evidence of unmet expectations. *Is God disappointed in me?* I wondered. *If not, where is God in this moment?*

After their release from captivity in Babylon, the Israelites asked the same questions as they gazed over the ruins of their lives in Jerusalem. God answered with an assurance both simple and profound: "I love you." God wasn't concerned by the crumbling walls or the need to make up for lost time. Rather, God wanted the people to know of God's love.

The answer is the same for us. God loves us right where we are today. What we may see as ruins, God sees as building blocks for lives greater than we could imagine for ourselves. As we shift our focus from our messy surroundings to God's presence, God will redeem and rebuild our lives.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for your unfailing love and closeness, no matter where we are in life. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson (Indiana) — See p. 21.