

Joel: God's Righteous Judgment – Week 4

1. So far the book of Joel has been focused on the people of Israel. It began with the recognition of suffering due to sin, and a call to repent. That was followed by reassurance regarding the kindness of God and a prediction of restoration. This week we saw that the flip side of restoration for God's people is judgment for the enemies of God's people.

- a. What thoughts or feelings do passages about God's judgment stir in you? Why do you think that is?
- b. What aspects of the reality of God's judgment do you need to better come to terms with?

2. The reality of judgment often forces us to think about those who are currently, from what we can tell, outside of God's family. While we all want to get better at being witnesses to those outside the church, it can be really tough.

- a. What have you found is the most effective way to share your faith with non-believers?
- b. Have you had any experiences lately sharing your faith? If so, what happened and how did it go?
- c. What would the next step look like for you in being a more faithful witness?
- d. Who will you commit to you praying for an opportunity to share your faith with this week?

3. The NT clearly teaches us that followers of Jesus are children of Abraham by faith (Gal 3) and have therefore been grafted into the people of God (Rom 9-10). That means that all those who follow Jesus get to enjoy the OT promises that God makes to His people.

- a. When you read God's promises of restoration in this passage, what does it make you think of? What areas of your life are you longing for God's restorative work in?

- b. In what ways can we experience God's restorative work here and now, and what will we only experience in eternity when we are with Him?

4. Much of this series we have been discussing relational restoration.

- a. Does the fact that the Lord will exact vengeance for the suffering of his people comfort you when you think of your own personal pain?
- b. How should this help us to better forgive and move on when dealing with those who have hurt us relationally and personally?
- c. We have all been hurt by others (friends, family). How have you new relationships in the church with spiritual family and friends helped you to move on and let go of past hurt?

5. Where are you still holding onto forgiveness? Why are you struggling with moving on?