

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT GOD TO SHOW UP?

Joel's Message:

A Quick Fly-By

- ✓ **All Hell Has Broken Loose:**
*A devastating **locust** invasion*
Joel 1:1-12/ Deuteronomy 28:15 & 42

- ✓ **But You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet:**
*The **Day of the Lord** is coming*
Joel 1:12 – 2:11/ Acts 2:16-21

- ✓ **Get Right With God:**
*Do the **right** thing, not the **religious** thing*
Joel 2:11-17/ Proverbs 15:8 & 21:27/ Jeremiah 14:12/ Isaiah 1:14-15

- ✓ **What Happens When We Repent (Turn Around):**
Judgment** becomes **blessing
Joel 2:18 – 3:20/ Isaiah 1:16-20

Lessons To Take Home

- (1) What to do when all hell breaks loose
Joel 2:11-17/ Judges 10:6-16/ 1 Peter 4:12-19
First, look in the **mirror**
If you see **sin** – **stop it**
If you don't see **sin** – **pray and hold on**

- (2) Never forget, when God brings **justice**
He also brings **judgment**
Joel 2:11/ 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 & 1 Peter 4:17-18/ 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

- (3) Never forget, God always prefers **forgiveness**
over **judgment**
Romans 5:8-10/ 2 Peter 3:8-15

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 11, 2012

This week is the final meeting of our Winter Quarter (*note: College groups are on a different schedule*). We'll take a two-week break and the nine-week Spring Quarter will begin April 1 and run through June 2.

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Looking in the mirror was one of the key points from this weekend's message. Interestingly enough, how we perceive ourselves in the mirror can vary significantly. We can either be too hard on ourselves, or think more highly of ourselves than we should. Have you seen this vary in your life? Do you tend to end up on one side of the spectrum more often than the other?

2. What's your first response when you hear about God's justice, judgment and forgiveness?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend, we learned about the importance of looking in the mirror and being honest with ourselves "when all hell breaks loose." How do the following verses help us know if what we're seeing in the mirror is accurate or if it needs any adjusting?

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. [NIV]

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [NIV]

Proverbs 27:5-6

Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.

[6] Wounds from a friend can be trusted,
but an enemy multiplies kisses. [NIV]

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron,
so one man sharpens another. [NIV]

Can you think of any examples of the “mirror adjusters” listed above in action in your own life?

One of the keys to the Proverbs passage being able to happen is not living in isolation. Can you think of any examples of feedback from others that has worked well, not so well or just doesn't seem to happen at all? If so, explain.

2. Whenever we hear about God's judgment, a natural response is fear. The good news about this response is that scripture tells us, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 9:10). As you read the passages below, which of the actions and benefits of wisdom do you find most important to remember?

Proverbs 3:1-2

My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
[2] for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you prosperity. [NIV]

Proverbs 3:3-4

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
[4] Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man. [NIV]

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
[6] in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight. [NIV]

Proverbs 3:7-8

Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil.
[8] This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones. [NIV]

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the firstfruits of all your crops;
[10] then your barns will be filled to overflowing,
and your vats will brim over with new wine. [NIV]

REMEMBERING

The reality that God prefers forgiveness over judgment is a profound comfort to us all. The culmination of God's love for us is demonstrated through the sending of his son, Jesus, and the sacrifice of his life so that we might have life.

As we close this quarter, we want to remember what Jesus has done for us and who we are by taking communion. In preparation for this, read through Psalm 86:1-11. Write down what it says about who God is, what he does for us, who we are as his followers and how we can come to him.

Psalm 86:1-11

A prayer of David.

- Hear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
- [2] Guard my life, for I am devoted to you.
You are my God; save your servant
who trusts in you.
- [3] Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I call to you all day long.
- [4] Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
- [5] You are forgiving and good, O Lord,
abounding in love to all who call to you.
- [6] Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.
- [7] In the day of my trouble I will call to you,
for you will answer me.
- [8] Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.
- [9] All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, O Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.
- [10] For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.
- [11] Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;

give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name. [NIV]

Prayer Requests:

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