



Community Group Discussion Questions • Mission

Title of Sermon: After the Locusts

Passage: Joel 1:13-20 NIV

Intro -

1. What is your most embarrassing moment or the moment you got caught doing something stupid?
 - a. How do you look back on that occasion now?
 - b. Are you glad it happened or not?
 - c. Did you learn anything from it?

Sermon Points -

1. Turn Away From It
 - a. When it comes to Christian preaching and teaching these days, how much emphasis is placed on the need for those who believe in Jesus to repent from their sin?
 - i. When the Gospel is shared, is this a big part of the message?
 - ii. Should it be?
 - iii. If it isn't why isn't it?
 - b. The people in Joel's world would demonstrate their repentance by wearing sackcloth. What do we do to demonstrate our sorrow for our sin? What does genuine repentance look like? What doesn't it look like?
2. Own Up To It
 - a. Why do we struggle to admit when we are wrong?
 - b. What kinds of tactics do we use to avoid admitting our part to play in the messes in which we have found ourselves?
 - c. What are the worst kinds of apologies you have heard?
 - d. Why do you think organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous make their clients follow a process that includes "making a searching and fearless moral inventory of themselves"?
 - i. What is the effect of doing something like that?
 - ii. Why do they claim that an addict cannot move forward until they take this step?



3. Cry Out About It

- a. Do we avoid prayer or embrace it when we are involved in a mess of our own making?
 - i. Why would some people avoid speaking to God in a moment like that (what do they believe about God so that they keep him at arm's length)?
 - ii. Why would some people go to God in a moment like that (what do they believe about God so that they cry out to him)?
- b. Is there a difference between God forgiving us of our sin and God relieving us of the effects of it? Can God do one and not the other and remain just and good?
- c. How do we handle it if God chooses not to alleviate the mess of our own making after we cry out to him about it?
 - i. Read 2 Samuel 11-12 to see how David handled it.
 - ii. Would you do the same?

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

Benediction - 2 John 3

"Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father's Son, in truth and love."