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The Prophets Speak of Him — JOEL

Warm-Up Question:

What are you most looking forward to this summer, that will bring you joy?

READ: Joel 2

I. JESUS DELIVERS US FROM JUDGEMENT

- ▶ Compare Joel 2:1, 30-31 with Matt. 24:29-31. Note the similarities and then how the day of the Lord could be seen as the day Jesus hung on the cross.
- ▶ Read Isaiah 53:5-6, John 5:24, and Rom. 8:1. In what way was the cross was our judgment day? What were some of the implications of this for us?

II. JESUS CALLS US TO REPENTANCE

- ▶ What specifically does God call his people to in v. 12-13a? Read the definition in the sidebar and discuss what it means to do this?
- ▶ What motivation does God give them to repent from v. 13b, 25-26 & Rom. 2:4.
- ▶ Do feel the need to repent often? Do you actually repent of your sin often? Why or why not do you think? Is there an issue of seeing the sinfulness of your sin or maybe a struggle to believe God's grace is that abundant?
- ▶ What would you most hope that God would restore that has been lost in the past (as he says he would do for his people in v. 25-26 through their repentance)?

III. JESUS GIFTS US WITH THE SPIRIT

- ▶ In OT, the Spirit was given in a limited way to empower people to a specific task. There was hope for God one day to gift all with his Spirit. Read v. 28-29, 32 and then Acts 2:1-4, 14-21 and compare them.
- ▶ How was this fulfilled in Acts 1:8, 2:37-41 and throughout rest of NT & now?
- ▶ Read Acts 1:8 & Eph. 4:7-8, 11-12. Who is given the Spirit & sent out, and what are they called to do? What are some practical ways for you to live this out?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

Q. 87. What is repentance unto life?

A. Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.

For Prayer:

- Thank God for giving you the gift of His Spirit.
- Ask the Spirit to bring conviction of sin, repentance, and full trust in God's abundant grace
- Ask God's Spirit to empower you through his Spirit to live on mission wherever he calls us



SEVEN RIVERS
C H U R C H

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SCRIPTURES USED

Joel 2:1 Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,
2 a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.

Joel 2:3 Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

Joel 2:4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.
5 As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

Joel 2:6 Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.
7 Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.
8 They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.
9 They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

Joel 2:10 The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
11 The LORD utters his voice

before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

Joel 2:12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

Joel 2:17 Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

Joel 2:18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
19 The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

Joel 2:20 “I will remove the northerner far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,

his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.

Joel 2:21 “Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

22 Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

Joel 2:23 “Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.

Joel 2:24 “The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

Joel 2:26 “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Joel 2:28 “And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Joel 2:30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns
of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and
awesome day of the LORD comes. **32** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the
name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who
escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.