

## Joel: God's Righteous Judgment – Week 2

1. Joel sees in the recent national disaster of a locust invasion a foreshadowing of the Day of the Lord, when God will judge the wicked and deliver the righteous. His exhortation to the people of Israel is to repent before it comes, lest they be found among the wicked and experience the wrath of God.

- a. We see here Joel's response to natural disaster and calamity. What is your typical response to it?
- b. What do you believe would be the most biblical and faithful way that you (as an individual) and the church (as a people) could respond to disasters, in so far as they are a foreshadowing of final judgment?
- c. Is your natural response less or other than you believe it should be? If so, why do you think that is? What keeps us from responding like we should to what is going on in the world around us?

2. Israel tended to make the mistake of assuming that because they had experienced God's favor in the past, that they would experience his favor in the future simply because of their heritage, being Abraham's descendants.

- a. Have you seen those who self-identify as Christians make the same mistake today, wrongfully assuming that we are good with God as simply due to our lineage, nationality, traditions, personal connections, etc.?
- b. How do we make sure that we don't deceive ourselves the same way?

3. What does it look like to "rend" one's heart (v. 13)?

- a. When have you experienced or done this yourself?
- b. What lead you to this kind of response?
- c. What was the result of your repentance and mourning over the sin that you faced?

4. How have you experienced and seen the gracious, merciful and loving character of God (v. 13) in the face of disaster?

5. How does the gospel help you to be able to be honestly aware of the tragedy and brokenness in the world without it leading you to despair?