

August 11, 2013 Sermon Application Handout

“The God Who Restores”

Joel 2:18-27

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, take time to pray and praise God for His ministry of reconciliation toward sinners like us (2 Cor. 5:17-21).

2. Review your lesson for Joel 2:1-17. What was one specific teaching that you understood from this section and applied to your life?

3. As an introduction to the next section in Joel, Chapter 2, begin by reading the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-31. What do you observe about the Father? What is his posture toward the prodigal son when he returns? Why had the son returned to his father?

4. With the parable of the prodigal son in view, read Joel 2:18-27; what do you observe about the Father? What two characteristics are being emphasized in verse 18? What is the overall posture toward Israel? What is the key for God's restoration of Israel (Joel 2:13)?

5. Consider verse 18 in the NAS and ESV versions below. Identify any differences you might see in the text especially in the verb tense. What do you think the reason might be for these differences?

New American Standard (NAS)	English Standard Version (ESV)
18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land And will have pity on His people.	18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

6. As you consider and study this passage, take note that there is a poetic device that is being used known as a chiasm. It's important to be aware of it because it helps the reader to discern the emphasis of the writer. Read each statement below and see if you can determine what the overall emphasis is in each statement below. This will help you understand the tone of this passage and God's immutable character.
- God's desires to r_____ (v. 27)
 - A general statement to r_____ (v. 26)
 - Remove cause of devastation as part of r_____ (v. 20, 25)
 - Specifics of r_____ (v. 21-24)
 - Outcome of r_____ (v. 27)

II. The Restoration of R_____

7. According to verse 19, what will God be restoring to Israel first should they repent? How does this echo Deuteronomy 7:12-13? What would Israel have understood about God and what He was doing?
8. According to verse 20, what would God be removing and how? What are the various seas that are mentioned in the text? How might this begin to bring hope back to the people?
9. In addition to the removal of the devastation, what does God promise will happen to the land in verses 21-22?
10. What else does God promise to restore in verse 23? How does this reflect Deuteronomy 11:13-17? What did God require of Israel? What did God warn Israel against?
11. As you consider verses 18-25, what desire is God emphasizing toward His people Israel? As you consider the church today, is this still an emphasis that God is most interested in? Where would you find this in Scripture?

III. The Restoration of R_____

12. Fill in the blanks below; what did God plan to restore according to verse 26? How might this bring them hope?
- You shall eat in plenty and be _____.
 - You shall p_____ the name of the Lord.
 - You shall never be put to s_____.

IV. The Restoration of R_____

13. Read Isaiah 1:18. What does God have in mind when He says he desires to restore his people?
14. As you contemplate Joel 2:18-27, would you say that man's greatest problem is God abandoning man or the other way around? What verses would you use to justify your answer?
15. Ultimately what does God require of every person in order to restore a right relationship with Him? (Consider Joel 2:13; Is.55:1-7; 66:1-2; Rom 6:23; 10:9-14; Eph 2:8-9).
16. What happens to that person once they are in a right relationship with God? (See 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
17. What principles can you glean from Joel 2:18-27? Is there one thing from the reading you can thank God for? Are there any sins listed in this chapter to avoid? What was the specific teaching that you understood from this chapter? How will you apply what you have learned from this chapter in your life today? What is one thing you can ask God to help you with?

RESOURCES

Specific Resource for Joel:

Joel and Obadiah by Irvin Busenitz
Joel, Amos, Obadiah by Thomas Finley
Joel and the Day of Lord by Walter Price

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice
The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg
The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood
Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard
A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer
Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr