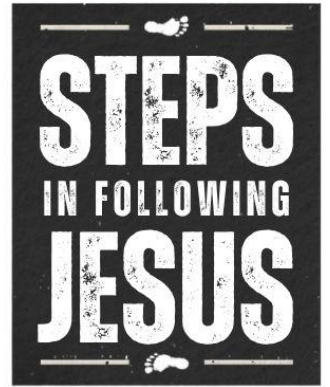


THE BOOK OF JOEL

RESTORE: JOEL 2:12-32

Memory Verse: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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.

Joel 2:12-13



1. Consecrated Confession

- Consecrated confession is when I desperately call out to God for forgiveness.
- Consecrated confession leads to a complete surrender to God's terms.
- Consecrated confession humbly exposes all of my shame to God.

2. Zealous Compassion

- God always responds favorably to true humility.
- The nature of our humility is exposed in the way we respond to God's pity.
 - False humility fears consequences, desires physical comfort, and despises pity because of a need to earn merit - a desire for control.
 - True humility fears God, recognizes his mercy, and receives his pity with gratefulness - trusts God's control.

3. Complete Satisfaction

- Complete satisfaction results from God's gifts, not from what I try to manufacture.
 - This is why the enemy uses gratification to destroy us.
 - This is why self-gratification is so deceiving and causes great shame.
- God satisfies bountifully and wondrously.

4. Intimate Relationship

- God makes himself known to everyone who seeks him.
- God makes himself available to anyone who calls to him.
- God pours himself into anyone who desires him.

Baptism + Church-wide Cookout at Victory Mountain Camp on August 9th,
12:45-4PM, 3594 Youth Camp Rd, Sophia, NC

Discussion Questions:

1. So many people are living with shame that they have buried deep in their heart in hope that time would eventually heal that wound. The problem with buried shame is that it never heals - it only festers. We can grow numb to the shame's damage, and instead of true confession, we will seek to shift the blame to other sources. Read Joel 2:15-17, 1 John 1:9, and Galatians 6:1-2. What shame needs to be exposed from your heart? After confessing to God, who is someone you trust that you can talk to about what you have confessed to God?
2. Read Joel 2:18. How do you define pity? What does pity imply? Do you receive pity well? Why or why not?
Think about the difference between receiving pity from a peer as opposed to receiving it from a parent. Do you believe you would respond differently in those two scenarios?
A refusal to receive pity often stems from pride. If we replace the word "pity" with "grace" it takes on a different connotation. Why do we have a hard time receiving grace? How does a refusal to receive grace relate to a desire for control? Read Proverbs 3:5-8. Why does a desire for control become an obstacle to satisfaction in Jesus?
3. Read Joel 2:19, 23-26. Complete satisfaction comes from what God sends rather than what I try to manufacture. What are all of the things that God said he would do for his people in this passage? Read Galatians 5:16-24. What might you be trying to manufacture that is robbing you of your joy? What things gratify you for a moment but then bring you shame? How much control do you have over the things that truly satisfy?
4. Read Joel 2:27 and John 10:14-15, 27-30. Discuss what it means to truly know God and be known by God?
Read Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:17-21, and Luke 11:13. Rather than answering any questions here, think for a moment of the incredible gift of God sending Holy Spirit to live inside you. Whether you are going through this study alone or with others, rejoice in this overwhelming truth: God knows everything about you and desires to be intimately close to you!

Slides:

1. Steps in Following Jesus: Restore (Joel 2:12-32)
2. Joel 2:12
3. Joel 2:13
4. 1. Consecrated Confession
5. Consecrated confession is when I desperately call out to God for forgiveness.
6. Joel 2:15
7. Consecrated confession leads to a complete surrender to God's terms.
8. Joel 2:16
9. Joel 2:17
10. Consecrated confession humbly exposes all of my shame to God.
11. 2. Zealous Compassion
12. Joel 2:18
13. God always responds favorably to true humility.
14. Psalm 51:16-17
15. The nature of our humility is exposed in the way we respond to God's pity.
16. False humility fears consequences, desires physical comfort, and despises pity because of a need to earn merit - a desire for control.
17. True humility fears God, recognizes his mercy, and receives his pity with gratefulness - trusts God's control.
18. 3. Complete Satisfaction
19. Complete satisfaction results from God's gifts, not from what I try to manufacture.
20. This is why the enemy uses gratification to destroy us.
21. This is why self-gratification is so deceiving and causes great shame.
22. God satisfies bountifully and wondrously.
23. 4. Intimate Relationship
24. God makes himself known to everyone who seeks him.
25. God makes himself available to anyone who calls to him.
26. God pours himself into anyone who desires him.
27. God's mighty works are often bookended by consecrated confession and deep relational restoration.