

Series: Beauty from Pain, a study in Joel

Sermon: "...in the valley of decision..."

Primary Text: Joel 3

Discussion guide:

- Have you ever experienced injustice or hardship at the hands of another? Please share.
- Read Job 21:7-9, 14-16 and Jeremiah 12:1-2
 - What point are they making to God?
 - Have you ever wondered about this?
 - Can you share some examples of wicked people prospering?
- Why do we have a sense of or desire for justice?
- Read Joel 3
 - This makes it clear that God is the one who will ultimately hold those who've acted wickedly against Israel accountable. Justice belongs to God.
 - Why is this true?
 - Why is this important to remember?
 - As you read the text, you'll notice God specifically naming sins committed against the people – God sees every sin.
 - Why is this important to remember about evil in the world?
 - Why is this important to remember about our own sin?
 - God asks what these nations have against Him – seeing their sins against Israel as sins against Him. This is not just because Israel is God's people – God views all sin as ultimately against Him (see Genesis 39:9; Psalms 51:4; Acts 9:4).
 - Why is this?
 - Why is this important to remember about evil in the world?
 - Why is this important to remember about our own sin?
 - In Joel 3 (particularly v. 21) God makes it clear that He will one day punish these people's evil deeds against Israel.
 - Why is this important to remember about evil in the world?
 - If Jesus has saved the Christian – why would we still stand before the judgement seat?
 - Read Joel 3:16 – what does this say about how to survive God's judgement?