

**Series:** Beauty from Pain, a study in Joel

**Sermon:** "...for He is gracious and merciful..."

**Primary text:** Joel 2:18-32

**Discussion guide:**

- Have you ever experienced a situation where someone who loved you allowed you to suffer in some way or visa versa? (i.e. parents kick you out of the house, take you to get a shot etc.) share the story
- Why do many people think that allowing someone to go through difficulty or be uncomfortable means you don't love them?
- How can allowing a loved one to go through hardship be a result of love?
- Read the text – what jumps out at you?
- In v. 18 we learn of the Lord's jealousy – the Bible tells us that God is jealous for us (Exodus 20:5)
  - What is jealousy?
  - Why is it bad for us to be jealous?
  - Why is ok for God to be?
  - How can the knowledge that God is jealous for us help you through a hardship?
- V. 18 also says that God took pity on the Israelites even though their situation was a result of their own disobedience.
  - Why is compassion?
  - Why is it important for us to know that God is a compassionate God? (Isaiah 49:13; Hebrews 4:15)
  - How does this help in our times of trouble?
- V. 21 tells us to fear not for the Lord has done great things.
  - What are some great things the Lord has done for you in your life?
  - What are some great things the Lord has done in general?
  - Why should remembering these things help us in our times of hardship? How does it dissuade fear?
  - Why is it so easy to forget sometimes?
- V. 23 tells us to rejoice and be glad "in the Lord".
  - How can we rejoice "in the Lord"?
  - How should knowing that we are "in the Lord" help us in times of hardship?
- V. 26 tells us to "praise the name of the Lord" (see Job 1:20-21; John 3:30)
  - What is worship? And why we do it?
  - Why should we worship in our hardship?
  - How can worship help us in our hardship?