

Discussion Questions

Date: May 24th, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

Sermon Outline

Talking Points

Cleansing Power | Zechariah 3-4

Cleansed for the Work (Zech. 3)

- When God saves from judgment, He cleanses from sin. (3:1-5)
- Our response to salvation is to obey God in the work He has for us. (3:6-10)
- **Question:** How are you living as one set apart for God's purposes?

Empowered for the Work (Zech. 4)

- We cannot do God's work without the anointing of His Spirit. (4:1-10a)
- The ministry of Jesus our Messiah is to "pour out" the Spirit's presence on His people. (4:10b-14)
- **Question:** How are you trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to work through you?

Bottom Line: The cleansing power of God works so that His Spirit can work through us.

* We see many night visions described in Zechariah. Why do you think God uses symbolic imagery to communicate with His people during times of rebuilding rather than just giving a straight list of directions?

* In Zechariah 3:1-5, God silences the accuser by pointing to His own saving power. What does this teach us about the true grounds of our identity and standing before God?

* In what areas of your life do you most often hear accusations from the enemy? As followers of Christ, how are we supposed to respond to these?

* God saves and cleanses us first, then He calls us to walk in obedience and do His work. Why are we prone to reversing this order, meaning we try to cleanse ourselves with works before coming to Him?

* How can we tell if our daily disciplines and obedience are flowing from genuine faith, rather than an unhealthy attempt to "earn" our salvation?

* What does it look like for a church to rely on human efforts rather than on the Holy Spirit? When have you tried to do God's work in your own strength? What resulted from that?

* The Holy Spirit is poured out on to the entire Church. We see this on Pentecost when the Spirit filled all believers, meaning we are all empowered ministers. How does that truth challenge your view on what "doing ministry" looks like?

* We are called to carry God's presence into the world. Do you consider yourself as an active priest who is commissioned with this call, or do you view yourself as a passive spectator?

What changes can you make this week to further allow the Holy Spirit to work through you?

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Prayer Requests

