

The Day of the Lord - Part 2

Joel 2:1-17

Big Idea: The day of the Lord is coming—inescapable judgment for those without Christ, but joy for believers. God calls us to genuine repentance, not ritual. Rend your hearts, not your garments. Even now, turn to Him with all your heart. His mercy is our only hope.

Key Takeaways:

1. All Scripture is living, active, and relevant
2. The Day of the Lord is coming
3. God calls for genuine heart repentance
4. "Even now" is the time
5. Daily repentance is the Christian life
6. God's mercy displays His glory
7. We must share the gospel urgently

Scriptures:

- Hebrews 4:12
- Deuteronomy 28:15
- Hebrews 3
- Revelation 20:11-15
- Zephaniah 1:6
- Deuteronomy 4:29
- Revelation 9:16
- Jeremiah 4:14
- Exodus 10:1-20
- Matthew 22:37
- Deuteronomy 28:29

Opening Question:

Share a time when you experienced an "alarm" or warning that helped you avoid something dangerous or harmful. How did you respond?

Discussion Questions:

What stood out to you most from this passage in Joel 2? Why?

The sermon mentioned "double prophetic fulfillment." How does understanding both the historical locust plague AND the future Day of the Lord help us read this passage?

What specific descriptions of the Day of the Lord in verses 1-11 are most sobering to you? Why do you think God uses such vivid imagery?

Mark emphasized "rend your heart, not your garments" (v. 13). What's the difference between external religious activity and genuine heart repentance? Can you share an example from your own life?

Read Joel 2:12-13. God is described as "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in loving kindness." How does knowing God's character motivate genuine repentance rather than just fear of punishment?

The sermon stated: "Repentance is and should be a daily part of our lives." How does this challenge or affirm your current spiritual practices?

Mark mentioned that before our nation repents, our churches need to repent. What might corporate repentance look like in our church or small group?

The sermon ended with a call to share the gospel with those facing judgment without Christ. Who in your life needs to hear about God's offer of mercy "even now"? How can this group pray for and support you in reaching them?

Hebrews 4:12 says God's Word is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." How have you experienced the Old Testament as living and relevant in your life?

The sermon contrasted the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) with the Bema Seat of Christ for believers. How does understanding both these future realities affect how you live today?

Practical Applications:

1. Set aside time for daily confession and repentance (consider journaling)
2. Fast for a meal this week, using that time for prayer and contemplation
3. Memorize Joel 2:12-13
4. Read through Joel 1-2 slowly, asking God to reveal areas needing repentance
5. Share the gospel with someone who doesn't know Christ
6. Confess a sin to a trusted believer and ask for accountability
7. Pray specifically for the repentance of your church/fellowship

Closing Thought/Prayer:

"Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart..." (Joel 2:12) Is there anything God is calling you to repent of "even now"? How can you live with greater urgency about the Day of the Lord?