



Community Group Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

Title of Sermon: It's a God Thing

Passage: Joel 1:1-15 NIV

1. How do we most commonly talk about the phrase, "It's a God thing?" Think about how you may have used this phrase regarding positive things that have happened in your life.
2. Read Joel 1:1-15.
 - a. What is our default response to the bad things that happen (eg. earthquakes, tsunamis, agricultural droughts)? What are the half truths in the statements: It's judgement for personal sin; it's just a "natural" disaster; the Devil did it?
 - b. What should be our response to the bad things happen in light of what Joel 1:1-15 says?
 - c. How do we avoid making these half-truth statements to disasters?
 - i. Half Truth 1: *It's a judgement for personal sin.*
[The error Job's friends made was that they insisted that Job's trials were a result of his personal sin. If we believe that difficult events are still "God things" how do we avoid making the same error as Job's friends?]
 - ii. Half Truth 2: *It's just a 'natural' disaster.*
[God did not just create the world and walk away, but is involved].
 - iii. Half Truth 3: The Devil did it?
[Job 1 describes God allowing Satan to bring hardship to Job, but only within the parameters that He decided.]
3. Read Joel 1:15. How does this verse help us avoid the half-truth statements?
[This makes it clear that the current destruction is a picture of the future destruction that is going to take place on the day of the Lord. In God's design, the devastation from the locust would be an opportunity for the people to repent in light of the fact that a future judgement is coming.]
4. Read Luke 13:1-5.
 - a. How does this passage relate to Joel 1:1-15?
 - b. What should be our personal response when we witness devastating events?



Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

Benediction - 2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."