



# RETURN

## THE PROPHET JOEL

### DOING A FULL 180

#### JOEL 2:12-17

*The design of chastisement is not destruction, but salvation.*

*- James Wolfendale (Preacher's Homiletic Commentary)*

#### A. GOD'S CALL FOR AUTHENTIC PERSONAL REPENTANCE (JOEL 2:12-13a)

1. Return to Me - Action (2 Chronicles 7:14)
2. Be Sincere - Integrity (Romans 12:9)
3. Be sorrowful - Contrite Heart: *Renewed from within, purged of any self-righteousness.* (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:13-15)

#### B. GOD'S CHARACTER (JOEL 2:13b)

1. Gracious and Merciful (Psalm 145:8-9)
2. Slow to Anger (Nahum 1:3)
3. Abounding in Steadfast Love and Relents Over Disaster (Psalm 86:5; Jonah 4:2)

#### C. THE LINGERING QUESTION - WILL GOD RELENT? (JOEL 2:14)

#### D. GOD'S CALL TO COMMUNITY REPENTANCE (JOEL 2:15-17)

1. The Scope (2:15-16)
2. The Leadership (2:17)

#### E. JESUS REVEALING THE FATHER'S HEART (PASSION) FOR REPENTANCE, REDEMPTION, and RENEWAL (LUKE 5:27-32)

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Joel 2:12-13a and the definition of a contrite heart in the outline. Do you remember a time when God "renewed you from within" and it led to the absence of self-righteousness in your life? Discuss
2. Read Joel 2:13b. Every page in the Bible reveals the character of God and his desire for a relationship with us. Read the list of character traits found in the outline. Which one do you need to be reminded of in this season? Explain.
3. Pray together asking God for a passion to seek him individually and as a church with confidence knowing that He is passionate about His relationship with us and is for us.

**JOEL 2:12-17** "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

**2 Chronicles 7:14** . . . if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Romans 12:9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

**Psalm 51:17** The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Isaiah 57:13-15** When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The wind will carry them all off, a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land and shall inherit my holy mountain. <sup>14</sup> And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people's way." <sup>15</sup> For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

**Psalm 145:8-9** The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

**Nahum 1:3** The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, . . .

**Psalm 86:5** For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

**Jonah 4:2** And he prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

**Deuteronomy 24:5** When a man is newly married, he shall not go out with the army or be liable for any other public duty. He shall be free at home one year to be happy with his wife whom he has taken.

**James 5:16** Confess your sins to one another & pray for one another, that you may be healed.

**Luke 5:27-32** After this (Jesus) went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." <sup>28</sup> And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. <sup>29</sup> And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. <sup>30</sup> And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" <sup>31</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."