

The 12: Zechariah Part I

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Zechariah's visions were ultimately about inspiring the people to return to God

Even though they have rejected Him, He's never given up on that dream.

Read and discuss Zechariah 7:4-14(NIV)

⁴ Then the word of the LORD Almighty came to me: ⁵ "Ask all the people of the land and the priests, 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted?' ⁶ And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves?' ⁷ Are these not the words the LORD proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?"

⁸ And the word of the LORD came again to Zechariah: ⁹ "This is what the LORD Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to

one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'

¹¹ "But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and covered their ears. ¹² They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry. ¹³ "When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,' says the Lord Almighty. ¹⁴ 'I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land they left behind them was so desolate that no one traveled through it. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.'"

*What do you see about God in these verses? The people?

*What does this passage indicate about being the people of God?

*How does He make what He wants clear?

God is looking for actual love

We can refuse God and keep Him at a distance by disobedience and, at times, by religious activity.

*How can religious activity make us think or appear we are loving God and others when we are not?

*Can you think of a time that you 'fasted for yourself' – tried to convince yourself that you were obeying?

God never asks us to make up for what we have done

Penance denies the sufficiency of Jesus' sacrifice for us.

*If you are comfortable sharing, what is the sin or issue that you are hanging on to?

*How have you tried to 'make up' for a sin or disobedience? How has that impacted your relationship with Him?

*Does God ask anything of us when it comes to our mistakes?

*How does hanging on or trying to perform 'penance' keep you from the dream God has for you?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina)

Song for reflection

[Learning to Let Go](#) by Simona Bunardzhieva

[I Have Made Mistakes](#) by The Oh Hellos