

Series Sermon-based Growth Group
Zephaniah 1:7-14a
Questions
September 19, 2021

Introductory Discussion:

What insight from Sunday's sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Discussion:

1. How can justice be an act of love?
 - a. What has God done to bring redemption to the unjust?
 - b. What makes it just for evildoers to be forgiven?
2. What message is lost when we focus on God's love and ignore His justice?
3. Why should Christians look forward to judgment day?
4. What does it mean to be silent before God (verse 7)?
 - a. Why should we be silent?
5. Verse 8 pronounces a judgment on the leaders of Israel and says they "clothe themselves with foreign garments." How is being like the rest of the world a reason for judgment?
 - a. In what ways do we behave like the rest of the world?
 - b. Why is that a problem?
6. "...all who leap on the temple threshold" (verse 9) is a reference to superstition. In what way do the beliefs and superstitions of this age infiltrate Christianity?
 - a. What is the danger in mixing Christianity with other ideas?

7. Verses 10 and 11 pronounce a judgment on the cultural and business elite because they behave as the heathens do. How can we as Christians be more Christ-like in our business and culture?

8. Verse 12 says, “And I will punish the people/
Who are stagnant in spirit,
Who say in their hearts,
‘The Lord will not do good nor harm!’
What do they mean, “The Lord will not do good nor harm!”?
 - a. How does believing that cause them to be stagnant?
 - b. What happens to us when we become stagnant?

9. These are all traps that Christians can fall into too. While they won't cause us to lose our salvation, what are the consequences of these behaviors?