

Series Sermon-based Growth Group
Zephaniah 1:1-6
Questions
September 12, 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. In what ways do people (even Christians) try to get their way other than asking God?

2. There are many instances in the Old Testament where God wipes out entire nations, or asks Israel to do the same. How is this acceptable?
 - a. In Genesis 15, God tells Abraham, "Then in the fourth generation they (Abraham's descendants) will return here, for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete." What does this tell you about God's justice in dealing with the nations of the promised land?
 - b. Do you think God would have preferred that they repent?
 - c. What does that tell you about why God will tell the Israelites to wipe out the Amorites in the future?
 - d. Deuteronomy 9:5 says, "It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to take possession of their land, but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God is driving them out from before you..." Does this further explain why God would want these nations destroyed?
 - e. If God is just, what does it tell you about the sinfulness of these people?

3. What is God's wrath? In Romans 1, verse 18, Paul talks about wrath. In verse 24, he says, "Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts..." What does it mean to think that wrath is God giving someone over to his lusts?
 - a. How could allowing someone to pursue their own lusts without God restraining them be wrath?

4. God has the right and authority to punish. What is wrong with us questioning Him?

5. Isaiah 55:8-9 says,
 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
 Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.
 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 So are My ways higher than your ways
 And My thoughts than your thoughts.
 - a. How does that help us accept God’s judgements?

6. Can we accept that his judgements, and therefore his wrath, are perfect?

7. Considering our own sinfulness, would it be just for God to pour out his wrath upon us?
 - a. Why doesn’t God punish us according to what we have done?
 - b. So, do we have a position to argue with how He punishes?
 - c. How can God’s justice be reconciled with his love?

8. 2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance.”
 - a. How does this verse help us to understand God’s justice?
 - b. How does this verse help us to understand God’s love?

9. What are your idols?
 - a. What can’t you do without or it will crush you? (That is your “idol”)
 - b. Is God involved in every decision you make?