

Sound the Alarm
Joel 2:12-27

This week we discussed the need to return to the Lord in the manner that He desires. In the book of Joel, we read about how God used His prophet to instruct Israel during a time of agricultural crisis and fear of attack from an enemy. During this time of crisis, God instructed His people that He was in control and wanted them to return to Him in humility and dependence so that He would be glorified as the preeminent One! Please review the sermon notes below.

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**When you see the world unraveling...
It's time to return to the Lord...**

Repenting of our sins because of His character (12-14)

Uniting the entire congregation with fasting (15-16)

Weeping for the sins of God's people (17)

Believing that our best days are ahead (18-27)

Hearing the Word of God and responding to Him is extremely important. If you haven't had the chance to listen to the message from this week, you can [watch it here](#). After watching, please use the following questions (if you find them helpful) in your BRAVE groups (now online every weekday) or discuss them with your family and/or friends. If you are not in a BRAVE Group, now is a great time to get involved. Please go to our online [Small Group platform](#) to get connected with a group that will work for you.

1. When we hear an alarm or siren, what does that signal? In times of uncertainty, why does an alarm need to be sounded for God's people? Should God be sounding an alarm in our culture today? Why or why not?
2. Why does God want His people to return to Him with fasting, weeping, and mourning? Read James 4:6-10. As believers in Christ, how are we called to approach God?
3. Why does God care more about heart change in His people than simply having them change external behaviors? How are you doing in your relationship with your First Love?
4. What about God's character should comfort us to approach Him even when we are in sin? How might we expect God to respond when we are humble and honoring to Him?

5. Who did God call together for prayer and fasting? Was there anyone excluded from the call to prayer? How important is corporate prayer to God? Why should it be important to us?
6. Why is fasting important? What should our attitude be when we fast? Have you sought the Lord for how He would like you to fast/not fast this week? Since fasting is not commanded but assumed, should fasting be a regular part of our spiritual disciplines with the Lord?
7. Why were the spiritual leaders (priests) called to weep for the sins of God's people? Why aren't spiritual leaders today all that concerned about sin? When a person sins, who are they ultimately hurting? How does God feel about sin? Why? How should we feel about sin? Why?
8. What are sins that you regularly see in our culture? How can we intercede for those who are trapped in those sins? Who will you be interceding for this week?
9. Describe some of the benefits of God's response to the nation of Israel? (pity, provision, protection, power, promise, preeminence) How does our humility unleash God's goodness?
10. Pastor Jeff consistently says that our best days are ahead. Are there any Scriptural grounds for this? Why did the Apostle Paul consider his best days to be ahead even when he was in prison (Philippians 1:21)? How can you live differently knowing that your best days are ahead?