



## Zechariah – Feasting in a Fast

### GETTING STARTED

Are we generally more judgmental or forgiving? As a culture we seem to be often split between the two extremes, either forgiving without any consideration or judging others without mercy. Cancelling people has become a new form of mob judgment. But what happens when we deserve judgment but need mercy? How should we treat others when they fail, or how should we react when we fail? The Bible tells us all of us have sinned, so what does God do? Do our sins forever haunt us, or is there any hope for real reconciliation? Zechariah dives into this question with the exiles who have returned to Jerusalem and shows them how they are to live on this side of their sin. They are called to trust in God's sovereign mercy, love the truth and rejoice in his grace.

### READ THE TEXT: Zechariah 8:14-19

<sup>14</sup>For thus says the Lord of hosts: "As I purposed to bring disaster to you when your fathers provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the Lord of hosts, <sup>15</sup>so again have I purposed in these days to bring good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; fear not. <sup>16</sup>These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; <sup>17</sup>do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath, for all these things I hate, declares the Lord."

<sup>18</sup>And the word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying, <sup>19</sup>"Thus says the Lord of hosts: The fast of the fourth month and the fast of the fifth and the fast of the seventh and the fast of the tenth shall be to the house of Judah seasons of joy and gladness and cheerful feasts. Therefore love truth and peace.



## UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. What question is being answered in this passage? Look back at 7:1-3 – How does this question relate to our lives?
2. What does the text say God hates? How should we understand the hatred of God towards something? (consider Jer 44:3 and Amos 5:15)

## APPLY THE TEXT

3. How have you dealt with your sins in the past? Have you tried to cover it up or confess it to God?
4. When are you most tempted to lie? How can you reflect God's character by telling the truth in those situations?
5. How do you celebrate God's grace in your life?

## SHARE & PRAY

1. What is one way that you are seeking to share the good news of Jesus this week? How can your life group help and support you in that?
2. In light of Zechariah, pray that we would turn quickly to confess our sins and be forgiven, speak and live the truth in all areas of life and celebrate the goodness of God each and every day.

