



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 093 - More than You Bargained For? (Zephaniah 1-3)

Are you looking forward to Christ's return? That may sound like a dumb question. It's like asking if you'd prefer dying peacefully in your sleep or from a long, drawn-out terminal illness. But if death comes before you make your peace with God, dying in your sleep will be anything but peaceful. In the same way, the Day of the Lord will be a dreadful thing—unless you are prepared. That is the message Zephaniah proclaimed to the people of Judah.

In Zephaniah 1:11-13 God not only warns His people of His pending judgment against those guilty of violence and fraud, but also against those who are complacent and only care about their goods, their houses and their vineyards.

- Which has a worse impact on society: hostile actions or complacency? Why?
- Zephaniah especially warns against complacency. What things do you find yourself complacent about
- How does complacency take hold of a believer?

In chapter two, God pleads with us to seek Him before His burning anger comes upon us. Hear God plead to you as you read Zephaniah 2:1-3.

- Why does God feel such anger over our sin?
- How do these words reveal God's desire to save us rather than destroy us?
- Why do Zephaniah's words carry such urgency?

The only way we can stand on the Day of the Lord is if we first kneel at the cross. That is where God already poured out His fiery wrath, punishing His only Son Jesus Christ for our sins.

- What do Jesus' haunting words from the cross ... "My God, My God, Why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46b) reveal about God's wrath?
- What comfort do you take from Jesus' words, "... Today you will be with Me in paradise"? (Luke 23:43b)

Read 2 Peter 3:1-13.

- How often do you find yourself thinking about the day of the Lord's return?
- What sorts of things make you think of it?
- How can we warn others of that great and dreadful day?