

Return to Me #3

The God of Second Chances

Word

Scripture Reference

Zechariah 3:1-10

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been given a second chance? What difference did it make in your life? Share with the group.
2. A wayward child of God can always return to Him because He is a God of second chances. Read Zechariah 3:1-10. The fourth vision Zechariah saw was of Joshua, Israel's high priest at the time the people returned to Jerusalem from exile to begin rebuilding the walls. This passage gives us five principles that explain what a second chance from God look like and its implications to you as its recipient. First is that the basis for true second chances is God's love (v. 1-2). The holy God cannot dismiss sin, but His unconditional and immense love shown through Jesus Christ acquits you of your sin. The Bible warns us of the great Accuser who presents our sins to God and accuses us of not being fit to serve. Have you ever felt unworthy to serve God or felt down and discouraged because of your past sins? Who does the Bible say intercedes for you against your accuser? Why do you think you are so valuable in His eyes that He'll defend you?
3. Secondly, true second chances involve a cleansing of your sinful record (v. 3-4). Describe how Joshua was dressed. What did his clothes represent? How do you treat sin in your life? How bad is sin before God? When someone deeply hurts you and you gave that person a second chance, do you think you could treat him/her the same way as you did before? How did God give Joshua a second chance? Describe how a beautiful picture of Jesus' atoning blood gives you the chance to live a clean life.
4. The third principle is that a true second chance restores a person to full approval (v. 5). Who was standing by while a clean turban was being placed on Joshua's head? What is the implication when God, who is all-knowing, would rather not remember your repented sin anymore? When you have forgiven someone and given that person a second chance, do you still dig up his/her faults? What does it imply if you do?
5. The fourth principle is that there are two conditions for a person who has been given a second chance (v. 6-7). What are these conditions, and what three things would happen if a follower of God would walk in His ways and meet these conditions (v. 7)? What should receiving a second chance from God result with in your life? Have you or the people around you witnessed a transformed life in you?
6. The fifth principle from our passage is that in Jesus Christ, EVERYONE gets a second chance (v. 8-10). Everyone who acknowledges that the Lord Jesus Christ is their personal Savior gets a precious second chance from God, no matter who they are or what they've done. Do you know anyone who hasn't received that gift yet, or someone who has turned away from God and haven't returned because they think they ran out of chances to be forgiven? How are you going to encourage that person to return to the God of second chances?

Walk

The three Messianic prophecies in verses 8-10 were fulfilled when Jesus came to the world to complete the work of salvation on the cross, allowing us to have a second chance to get right with God. What would you do with a second chance? Are you going to squander it or correct your mistakes? When you receive "new clothes", will you jump on a pile of dirt again? What can you learn from the people in the Bible like Abraham, David, Peter, Paul, etc. who learned from their mistakes and lived transformed lives when they were given a second chance?

Worship & Prayer

Father, You are a holy God who does not tolerate sin, but because You are also a loving God, You gave me a second chance through Your Son Jesus Christ. Forgive me for wasting those second chances paid for with the high price of Jesus' blood. I don't want to waste it anymore, Lord. I desire a transformed life, one whose mission is to live for You. Lead me to be a person who obeys You faithfully and who draws other people back to You. I pray these in Jesus' name. Amen.