

## God Restores – May 3, 2023      Restoration Reunion!

Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>... Restored. Better than Before. More than was needed.

Put the right person in our path. God provided a place.

**Job** knew about restoration. . . did nothing wrong, but had a target on back. God restored what he lost . . . “blessed Job’s latter days more than his first.”

**Sometimes we go our own way.** **Moses** told about blessings & curses in life . . . but when we’ve had enough loss/ consequences/ curses . . .

**Deut. 30:1-4** – MSG – take the instructions “seriously and come back to God, your God, and obey him with your whole heart and soul according to everything that I command you today, God, your God, will **restore** everything you lost; he’ll have compassion on you; he’ll come back and pick up the pieces from all the places where you were scattered. No matter how far away you end up, God, your God, will get you out of there and bring you back to the land your ancestors once possessed. It will be yours again. He will give you a good life and make you more numerous than your ancestors.”

- Consequences bring us back to our senses ... **Prodigal Son**. Restored.
  - Even when we sin, walk away, disobey, unfaithful . . . God loves us.
    - Just ask **Adam & Eve** – God made them clothes
    - Just ask **Jonah** – there was a whale . . . a way to get back!
    - Just ask **Pharaoh’s cup-bearer** . . . offended Pharaoh, but ... placed in prison w/Joseph. Dream of grape vine & cup.
      - **Gen. 40:13** – “Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and **restore** you to your position as his chief cup-bearer.”
      - God puts the right people in our path. Accept help.
    - Just ask **Joel** . . . swarms of locusts destroyed everything, but the prophet was given a message.
      - **Joel 1:10** - “The fields are ruined, the land is stripped bare. The grain is destroyed, the grapes have shriveled, and the olive oil is gone...” **Vs. 12** – “And the people’s joy has dried up with them.”
      - Joel urged fast & pray. Look to God... turns things around!

**Joel 2:21-27** - “Do not be afraid, land of Judah; be glad and rejoice. Surely the Lord has done great things! Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains because he is faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. **25** “I will **repay you** for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed. **Then you will know** that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.”

Some of us have **faced the locust** . . . job didn't work out. Move not right. We've lost relationships we thought were stable, forever.

Friendships can be restored. Families can be restored. Marriages saved.

**Then we know** – God is at work.

**You** can be restored, too. **God is in the restoration business!**

- Just ask **David** . . . committed adultery w/Bathsheba. Prophet *Nathan* confronted him... felt guilt, emptiness, weighed down
  - o **Psalm 51** – “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. . .” David prays: cleanse me, wash me, “**Restore** to me the joy of Your salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.” – **51:12**

**God restores.** Gives crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, a garment of praise for a spirit of despair. **Isa. 61:3**

Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again.”

**John 2:19. God restores.** He will raise you up!

Song of the week – “Restore Me” - by Kutless