

For Me; For Me?

(Zechariah 7:5)

- Introduction:
1. I don't suppose we preach a lot from the book of Zechariah.
 2. For that matter, I'm not sure we spend a great deal of time in many of the "minor prophets."
 3. However, the content of these books are just as timely to us today, as they were to their original readers.
 4. In this lesson, we want to examine two repeated words that God made to his children - "For me, for me?"

I. A Brief Background

- A. Judah has been in captivity for 70 years and now they are returning to Jerusalem from captivity.
- B. Their return home, and rebuilding of the temple has caused them to ask whether they should continue their self-imposed fast due to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians.
- C. This is a good question since the temple was now being rebuilt.
- D. God's answer demonstrates his frustration and his awareness of their motives.

II. Why Do We Do What We Do?

- A. (Zechariah 7:1-6).
- B. (1 Samuel 15:22).
- C. Do we worship God for who he is, or for what he can do for us?
- D. Would we serve and worship him if there were no promise of Heaven?

III. Worship Without Holiness Is Vain

- A. (Zechariah 7:7-10).
- B. God wants worship from the heart, not out of empty ritualism.

IV. God Cannot Be Fooled

- A. (Zechariah 7:11-14).
- B. God is able to see why we do what we do.
- C. He knows when we seek to manipulate him.

- Conclusion:
1. God is worthy to be praised and worshiped because of who he is.
 2. If we think we can offer hollow worship while living unholy lives and somehow God will accept this, we are mistaken.