

# yet...

December 31, 2023

## Zechariah 8

### BELONG

Get to Know One Another

If you could magically become fluent in any language, what would it be?

### BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Today, Pastor Jacob preached a stand-alone sermon on **Zechariah 8**. The background to **Zechariah 8** is this book is taking place around 20 years after the Babylonian exile [538 BC]. The temple of God had been destroyed about 50 years earlier [in 586 BC]. Discouragement surrounded God's people, replacing their previous enthusiasm. They were seeking to rebuild the temple and had the foundations laid, but they were facing severe opposition to it, which prevented them from doing anything else to rebuild the temple. Because of this, ***faithful obedience was viewed by many as useless: it made more sense to pursue the best life possible in spite of their current difficulties. So, life stunk!*** God had promised deliverance, and that Israel would be a mighty nation, but that seemed like it was far from being the truth. So, they lived discouraged life - far from God.

**Question 1:** In your opinion, does the church pursue faithful obedience OR do we pursue the best life possible?

- Based on current difficulties, can faithful obedience seem useless?

Though the Israelites couldn't see His promises [and sometimes we can't either!], they were as good as done.

This year, FBC is going to live by this word **YET**. Yet allows you to hope. Yet allows you to trust. Yet opens the door for God to blow your mind. *That's what He is going to do this year in you and through you.*

### BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Zechariah 8:1-8; 20-23**

In these passages, Zechariah highlights God's promises to lift-up His people when they face discouragement, when they hurt, when they have need, and send companions when they are lonely. Despite skepticism arising from unfulfilled promises, the message emphasizes the importance of trusting God, acknowledging His control, goodness, and love, even in the face of persistent challenges. The call is to maintain faith and trust in God's timing, holding onto hope in the midst of life's storms. We often get so caught up in our storms that any hope just seems fake. But in those times, we must remember who is in control. We must remember who is good. We must remember who truly loves. ***We must trust God in the YET.***

**Question 2:** Spend a few moments discussion the difference between a ***righteous jealousy*** and an ***unrighteousness jealousy***.

- How is God's righteous jealousy a comforting reality for God's people here?

**Question 3:** Think about your life and how God's presence has transformed you - through the good times and the not-so-good times. How has the Lord continually sanctified you during the time you've been following Him.

**Question 4:** In **verses 20-23**, we see a movement of people from every city gathering from the east and the west to dwell in the presence of God. God's people, in their bleak, lowly, depressing situation...who know the promises of God for them that they are to be a great and mighty nation, say, "Many people have not come!" **But God says, "YET." "Peoples shall yet come."**

- How should these verses impact the way we live our lives?
- As a Community Group, what steps can we take to share the hope of the gospel with people from all corners of the earth?

Have someone in your group read **John 7:6-8**

In **John 7:6-8**, Jesus said His time had not **YET** come. But, throughout the Gospels we read that Jesus knew His time would come, that's why He said **YET**. He knew **why** He had come to earth in the form of a child, and He knew **when** His time was coming. God is never surprised, and He is never late.

**Question 5:** In **John 7:6-8**, Jesus tells the people that it is not the right time.

- Has there been a time that you prayed for God to intervene in your life or in a difficult situation, and His answer was "not yet"?
- Well after the fact, after you have had time to reflect, did you see God at work during those times?

Sometimes we may be where the Israelites were. We may feel like God is distant...like He doesn't care. We may feel like we can never overcome the sin that you keep going back to, like you'll never be delivered. We may feel alone...like nobody cares. Just like God did for Israel, we need to be reminded that we are God's child. In those times, the answer to our prayers may be, "Your time has not **YET** come, but it's coming."

**Question 6:** What has God shown you, through circumstances in your life, that points you back to Him or gives you a fuller understanding of Him?

**Quote to Wrestle with: "The issue of faith is not so much whether we believe in God, but whether we believe the God we believe in." - RC Sproul**

## BEGIN

Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Blue Letter Bible: [Zechariah 8](#):** Check out the QR code to learn more.

