

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, November 19, 2023 (Pentecost 25)

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Discussion Starters

1. What is the “day of the Lord” that the prophet describes? How close is it? Will it be a good day or a bad day?
2. What does this day tell you about God's view of sin and its consequences?
3. How does the description of God in these verses match up with the idea of a loving God that we associate with the New Testament?
4. Do you think the prophet's warning changed the hearts and actions of the people? What parallels do you see to today's world?
5. What contemporary “signs” do you see as God's warning to our nation? To the church? To you?

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Discussion Starters

1. What is Paul attempting to communicate when he describes Christ's return “as a thief in the night?” Is this a calming image or a dreadful one?
2. What message is conveyed in the dark/light imagery?
3. According to this passage, will Christians ever have to suffer?
4. What does it mean to “build each other up?”
5. When will Christ return?

Matthew 25:14-30

Discussion Starters

1. In this parable, who does the master represent? The journey? The talents? The servants?
2. Which of the three servants do you relate to the most? What changes would need to be made in order for you to be more satisfied with how you are using your talents?
3. On what basis are the servants rewarded?
4. If the Master returned today, how much of your talents and potential would he say you are using for him?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?