

Marinating in God's Word: Zephaniah 3:14-20, Luke 15:3-7

Ask about a favorite book of the Bible, and you're not likely to hear someone cite the Minor Prophets. And yet we hear God's word through them too. Thus, we are focusing this summer on a portion of the Bible we tend not to know very well.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- Zephaniah's book includes both warnings of God's judgement (chapter 1 through the first half of 3), and an invitation to join a celebration (3:14-20). How do warnings and invitations each work to awaken us to new possibilities with the Lord? When was a time when change came for you because you knew you were on the wrong path? And when was a time when change came because you decided to take a new and right path?
- Zephaniah concludes with a giant call for the Lord's people to rejoice (v. 14), and then goes to length describing why they should rejoice (v. 15-20). What are the reasons Zephaniah describes? What reasons do you have today to rejoice?
- Zephaniah describes the Lord's rejoicing (v. 17-18a), and Jesus does the same with his parable of the shepherd who finds his lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). How do the two parallel?
- Zephaniah and Jesus are clear: the Lord himself rejoices over us! Why? What does that mean for your own growth in joy? What does that mean for our worship?

Next week we will focus on Ephesians 3:14-21.