

Thursday, September 3, 2026

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**Essential Truth:** *We humbly commit ourselves to seeking God together "United we stand, divided we fall"*

**Scripture:** Joel 2:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;

consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup> gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the elders;

gather the children,

even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,

and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,

weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord,

and make not your heritage a reproach,

a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

"Where is their God?"

## Observations:

- Get the peoples' attention! In biblical times the trumpet was blown for two occasions:
  - to call the people together ie. for war, or
  - to gather people for an important message or meeting
  - it was to signal to them to set out, to move out for action (Numbers 10:2)
- This was an announcement:
  - to declare a holy fast Jeremiah 36:9
  - for a sacred assembly 2 Chronicles 20:3-4 (Jehoshaphat )
- Specific and inclusive: all the people: old, young, newlyweds, engaged. NO ONE excluded
- Leaders (priests): weeping and crying out to the Lord on behalf of the people, leading by example to confession and repentance and forgiveness— both seeking forgiveness and giving forgiveness.
- The focus is on bringing glory to God's name, not shame and ridicule

**Application:** We have become so busy and preoccupied with duties and actives and getting things done that we have lost our connection with the Master. We have become dull of hearing His voice. We have also lost sensitivity to the needs and hurts and struggles of others, even those with whom we serve. Our conversations have been superficial, even hurtful. Have I listened to the words coming out of my mouth? In my busy pre-occupation, I've missed the gentle soft voice of the Spirit, coaxing me to go near that brother and sister, and connect with them. At this juncture, we are called to stop, interrupt our pattern of daily routine. Humble ourselves through fasting and individually preparing for coming together in unity of heart and mind and purpose, to seek our Lord's face, to listen for his precious words to us. Even now, as in ancient times, our community/ church family is essential!

**Prayer:** *Dear God our Father, we bow before You, humbly seeking your Presence, Forgive us for pretending to be self-sufficient in our personal lives. Forgive me for my pride in knowing Your precepts in my head, but not being deeply committed in my heart in complete surrender, to attend to others, my brothers and sisters, those hurting silently, painfully invisible to my eyes and ears. LORD, let me not be oblivious to those in need, but use me as Your instrument of encouragement and comfort. Let me be a willing vessel daily to carry forth Your good news, Your balm of healing and hope, and may they see You as the trustworthy Giver of all good things. In Jesus' Name, Amen*

