

Discussion Guide: Obadiah - Part 1

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

January 11, 2004: "Obadiah - Part 1" by Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor College Park Church. Pastor introduced the book of Obadiah as "Big Lessons from the Littlest Book in the Old Testament." Pastor described the book as dealing with the sins of conscience. Our consciences are a God given facility as Image bearers. Like feelings of pain warn the body, our consciences provide feedback to keep us on course. And the people of Edom, acting out of corrupted consciences, so offended God in what they did to his people in the land of Judah that he brought severe judgment against them.

Pastors Application Points from Obadiah:

1. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God (v. 8-10)

God's anger burns towards those that treat people badly.
We will be judged using the same measure of how we treat others.

Questions: What examples from your own experience do you have of people treating others poorly? What have been the consequences? What happens when our consciences are corrupted? (see Titus 1:15-16 for insight)

2. God's judgment is long-term, mysterious and sometimes strange.

It may be immediate, or years later...through natural forces, or other means.

Questions: In what ways have you seen what appears to be God's judgment in action?

3. God's judgment includes searching our hearts. (v. 3-4)

Questions: What was at the root of the Edomites deception? How can we guard against being similarly deceived?

4. Non-Involvement in Social Crisis is as bad as if you do nothing. (v. 11)

Questions: What examples can you give of situations in which good people did nothing and the situations got out of hand? What are we called to be as Christians? (Matthew 5:13-16)

5. We reap what we sow (v. 15)

Questions: What does this mean in practical terms for us today? In light of v.15 how should we treat others? (for clues see Ephesians 4, 5 and 6)

6. There is hope for the crushed heart. (Romans 19-21)

Questions: When we are treated unfairly, how should we respond? When we respond as Jesus taught, what freedom does that bring to our hearts?