

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

**ADVENT 2015**

These questions are for the **December 13, 2015** sermon, "The Christmas Promise, Part 3." Please read the sermon passage (Zechariah 3:1-10) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline:

By His grace, our Lord . . .

1. **Defends His people, cleansing us from our sins** (1-5)
  - A. "Joshua" is the OT rendering of "Jesus."
    - i. Joshua, the OT priest, has filthy clothes. Joshua represents all the people of God.
    - ii. Jesus takes initiative to clean up Joshua and all who belong to God.
  - B. Jesus defends his people while the enemy stands by to accuse. When you hear statements about your identity, make certain that you are listening to the voice of your Savior.
  - C. The Lord removes the sin and offense (vv 3-4)
  - D. The Lord replaces our garments with clean clothes (v. 5), making us acceptable before the Lord.
2. **Delivers His people, sending us His Messiah** (6-10)
  - A. When we are clean (forgiven), we are free to walk with him and obey (to be holy; sanctified)
  - B. Note the titles for the Jesus here:
    - i. SERVANT. Check out Isaiah 41-53, especially 53:1-6). Jesus came to serve!
    - ii. BRANCH. Check out Isaiah 4:2. Jesus is the life-giving branch that grew from the promise made to David. Jesus is the ultimate life-bringer!
    - iii. STONE. Check out Isaiah 28:16. Jesus is the cornerstone, on which everything is built.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Note that Joshua, who represents the people of God (you and me) was dirty--detestable to God. But in God's grace, the Lord takes initiative to remove the dirty clothes and cover us with perfect, clean garments. He did not command us to clean ourselves up, but he takes it on himself to do the job. God does the work of forgiving the sins of his people! Discuss this incredible truth.
2. Based on #1, above: The evil one positions himself near God's throne and accuses you, even while the Savior is cleaning you up and speaking peace over you. We were instructed to be very careful to tune our ears to Jesus. How can you listen to messages from Jesus, and refuse to hear the enemy's accusations? How can you be sure you don't have the two mixed up?
3. Based on #1, above: What is your response when you consider that you brought nothing but your rags to the Lord? That Jesus takes the initiative? That Jesus bought new clothes? That Jesus removes the old? That only Jesus can clothe you with righteousness? That everything about your salvation depends on Jesus?
4. Based on #2, above: People who have been clothed with righteousness have a responsibility to pursue God and live a life of holiness. "If you will walk in my ways . . ." . . . I will give you the right of access." How are you handling your responsibility in this pursuit of sanctification? What is the next area that you know God is requiring faithfulness from you? How can we pray for you?