

Joel 2. <sup>12-14</sup>

<sup>12</sup>Therefore also now, saith the LORD,  
turn ye even to me with all your heart,  
and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

<sup>13</sup>And rend your heart, and not your garments,  
and turn unto the LORD your God:  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and of great kindness,  
and repenteth him of the evil.

<sup>14</sup>Who knoweth if he will return and repent,  
and leave a blessing behind him...

This is the 8th reading for Lent 2025. In this reading, we once more explore the topic of repentance, one of the principal themes and purposes of Lent.

1. Paul speaks of a “godly sorrow [that] worketh repentance to salvation” and of being “made sorry after a godly manner” (2 Cor. 7.<sup>9</sup>)  
? What admonitions does Joel issue that would be indicative of a “godly sorrow” that is “after a godly manner”?
2. Joel admonishes his audience to “rend your heart, and not your garments.”  
? What is it about rending one’s garments that might have made Joel skeptical of that outward sign of repentance?  
? What do you think and feel as you contemplate the imagery “rending your heart”?

Consider the following question that the penitent King of the Lamanites asked Aaron after his instruction.

“What shall I do that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day? Behold, said he, I will give up all that I possess, yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy” (Al. 22.<sup>15</sup>).

- ? What do you see in this question that is compatible with Joel’s admonition?
  - ? The Lamanite king wants to have his “wicked spirit rooted out of [his] breast.” What do you think and feel when you contemplate the imagery of “*rooting*” something from the breast?
  - ? How does this rooting out of a wicked spirit compare with Joel’s “rend your heart”?
3. Joel mentions five dependable attributes of God.  
? What are those attributes?  
? Take some time to ponder on and consider the relationship between the five attributes.

He is “gracious”

He is “merciful”

He is “slow to anger”

He is “of great kindness”

He “repenteth him of the evil” (“relents concerning punishment”)

- ? To what degree have you experienced these Divine traits in your own experience with God?
4. After listing the five divine attributes, Joel ends with the question, "Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him."
- ? How do you feel about the level of faith expressed in this question?

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