Sermon Notes
Week of Sunday, October 4, 2015
Sermon Title: Obedience and the Least
Key Passage: Zechariah 7:1-14 (ESV)

Pastor - Mark Saunders

A. We say "What's the least I can do for you?"

1 In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chislev. 2 Now the people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-melech and their men to entreat the favor of the Lord, 3 saying to the priests of the house of the Lord of hosts and the prophets, "Should I weep and abstain in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?" (Zechariah 7:1-3 ESV)

B. God says "When you do for me, your point is you."

4 Then the word of the Lord of hosts came to me: 5 "Say to all the people of the land and the priests, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted? 6 And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? (Zechariah 7:4-6 ESV)

C. God's call on His people has never changed.

7 Were not these the words that the Lord proclaimed by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and prosperous, with her cities around her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited?" 8 And the word of the Lord came to Zechariah, saying, 9 "Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, 10 do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart." (Zechariah 7:7-10 ESV)

D. Our reaction can be all too familiar.

11 But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears that they might not hear. 12 They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. (Zechariah 7:11-12ESV)

E. God returns the favor.

Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts. 13 "As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear," says the Lord of hosts, 14 "and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations that they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate." (Zechariah 7:12b-14 ESV)

Life Group Notes
Week of Sunday, October 4, 2015
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Key Passage: Zechariah 7: 1-14 (ESV)

Pastor - Mark Saunders

Getting Started

1. What stood out as significant to you from this week's sermon?

2. What do you think it means to be selfish? In what areas of your life are you selfish?

3. Read Zechariah 7:1-14. Zechariah heard the word of the Lord more than one time in his life. How do we hear the word of the Lord today? Are you listing to His Word when He speaks to you?

4. Verses 9 and 10 give us a small glimpse of how we should live. How are you doing in each of these areas?

Life Group Notes (Cont)
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5. When have you ever stopped up your ears, figuratively speaking, to keep from having to be obedient to God? What was the outcome of your disobedience?

6. Read Romans 12:1-2. How can you know what the will of God is for your life? How are you actively being transformed into the likeness of Christ? What do you need to add to your regimen to continue growing to be more like Christ?

7. Read 1 Peter 1:13-25. By these standards, would you consider yourself as one of the "obedient children"? Why do you answer the way you do? What areas in your soul-life do you need to shore up in order to be more obedient to God's call on your life?

8. Read Hebrews 11:1-12:2. Ask God to show you what part obedience and trust played in the lives of those listed in the "hall of faith". Ask God to show you where you have weaknesses in trusting Him and having faith that He will do what He has promised. Ask God to give you the courage you need to be obedient to that call.