

Sermon Title: **“EMPTY RITUALS VS TRUE RELIGION”**

Zechariah 7:1-14

- The problem Jesus came to fix was a _____ sin issue and all of us, even the most religious miss God’s _____
 - Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can _____ at the core (Jesus does what none of us ever could)
- In Zechariah 7 the people come with a question about _____ and God’s answer pushes _____ and it prompts the heart to _____ behind the practice of fasting
- Time advances between Zechariah 6 and 7 (about _____ pass)
 - In that span of time the Temple is now about _____ (God’s _____ is becoming _____)
 - For the _____ (70 years), ever since Babylon invaded and conquered Jerusalem, they had been fasting _____ a year
 - With the Temple being _____ and the fast related to the Temple being burned down approaching, men from Bethel want to know – should they continue the _____ of fasting?
- God was going to _____ (God was going to help them see past their _____ to Himself)
- _____ they were faithful to observe these fasts but _____ they had missed the entire point of fasting
- God’s question brings us beyond the _____ and it forces us to examine the _____ behind our behavior and practices
- “Dispense _____” = execute justice _____
- “Practice kindness and compassion” = this speaks to faithful _____ (God-type) love, the same _____ God shows His people
- “Do not oppress the widow, orphans, foreigner, or poor” = these were the most _____ and easiest to exploit in society
- “Do not _____ in your hearts against one another” = plotting and _____ to do evil against your brother
 - Remember Christ didn’t die to make us _____, he died to make us _____ and to _____ us to a right relationship with God
- God is urging this _____ to learn from the _____