

Your relationships matter to God  
Zechariah 7 & 8 (Ezra 6:14)

- I. External – Religious ceremonies do not measure godliness (Zechariah 7:1-7).
  - A. The question: The Jews asked the priests if they should continue to fast since the temple was being rebuilt (Zechariah 7:1-3).
  - B. God's answer: The fasts of the past were lacking true repentance toward God (7:4-5).
  - C. God's answer: The feasts of the past were not really praising God, but indulging self (7:6-7).
  
- II. Internal – Our relationships are a better measure of godliness (Zechariah 7:8-14).
  - A. Real Issue: How we treat people is a true measure of godliness in God's sight (7:8-10a)
  - B. Real Issue: How we think about people in our hearts is a true measure of godliness in God's sight (7:10b).
  - C. Warning: The Jews ancestors paid the price of hard-hearted relationships (7:11-14).

***Main Point: Our relationships matter to God because they expose our true character.***
  
- III. God longs to bless those who serve Him and care about others (Zechariah 8:9-17)
  - A. God urged the Jews to work hard and bravely rebuilding the temple so they could bless others (8:9-13).
  - B. God would bless them if they had integrity, fairness and goodwill toward others (8:14-17).