What the Locusts Have Eaten
Joel Series – Part 3

Scripture text – Joel 2:18-27

Introduction

- One of our greatest needs is for a _____ understanding of suffering, so we're not shocked and _____ by it.
- Quick review:
    1. Israel was in the midst of a terrible _____ and had recently experienced an infestation of _____.
    2. Joel prophesied that this "day of the LORD" was a _____ of an even greater one, namely, a catastrophic _____ defeat.

5 Affirmations for Sufferers

1. **The LORD is _____ for his people.**
    - This means God is deeply _____ to his people and the preservation of their relationship.
    - His jealousy explains both _____ Israel was suffering (they had left him) and also his _____ for them.
    - Similarly, God is jealous for us; we _____ to him. If anyone or anything comes between us, he will _____.

2. **The LORD _____ from further judgment and _____ his people when they turn from their wickedness.**
    - For Israel, God drove away the _____ and restored their _____. He also restored the people's _____.
    - If America is experiencing a "day of the LORD," our only hope is to _____ & turn back to him. No _____ will save us.

3. **The LORD is providentially in _____ of all circumstances.**
    - God isn't a passive _____ to events. His providence is his _____ _____ all things.
    - Whenever we suffer, the issue is whether or not we _____ him.

4. The LORD _____ his people for their suffering.

- The blessings bestowed upon Israel following the locust swarm are a foreshadowing of the blessings that will be bestowed upon God's people at the _____ of the _____.

- Our greatest suffering will be regarded as a mere _____ when viewed from eternity.

Looking Ahead in Joel's Prophecy

- There is coming a _____ & _____ "day of the LORD," during which the _____ will suffer. The days will be _____.
- Only out of the _____, the church will rise _____!