

Connection Group Participant Guide

June 6, 2021

Zechariah 5:5-11

Introduction

Make sure that you keep your measure of sin on empty! The basket filled with the woman personifying wickedness pictures what other Scriptures teach, that God has a measure for sin. It is the largest measure, because His grace is abundant. But God patiently allows sin and sinners to multiply until His measure of judgment is full. Then He takes swift action in judgment, as pictured in the two women carrying the basket with the woman off to Shinar.

We do not know when God's time of judgment for America or other countries will come. Nor do we know how far we as individuals can go in sin before God's judgment will fall on us. But the clear warning of Scripture is, *don't press the limit!* Do not presume on God's grace! Judge your own sin so that God doesn't have to judge it for you!

Highlight

What did Zechariah see going forth (Zech. 5:5-6)? What was inside of it (Zech. 5:7)?

Explain

Whose wickedness did the woman represent? The people? The government? The priests? Satan? All the above? How does the answer to this question matter? Why take the basket of wickedness to the land of Shinar (Babylon)? See Rev. 17-18.

Apply

How do we find the biblical balance between living *in* the world, yet not becoming *of* the world (John 17:14-19)? How can we be hard on sin without becoming harsh, unkind, and judgmental? Where is the balance between mercy and judgment?

Respond in Prayer

Read through John 17:14-19 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

