



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 37.1

Old Testament Survey: Amos (part 1)

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
Kings shows this prosperity as God's act of mercy, undeserved by Israel or its king. The world would have had a different history if Israel had responded to God's mercy with gracious obedience and love. If Israel's leaders had shown love to Yahweh as God and love to each other, then Amos would not have written his prophecy as he did.
- Prayer for Justice & Repentance
- Video (35 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "...the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter" (2 Kings 14:26).
Over and over in Scripture, we read that God sees. God does not suffer from man's limitations of space, time, limited attention or vision. God sees not only the outside, but he is able to look upon the heart of man. God's eyes saw our "unformed substance" (Ps. 139:16) and our length of days before we were even made.
I wonder if sometimes we think that since we are ignoring God, he is likely ignoring us as well. That is foolish. God sees. His vision is beyond 20/20. He sees the actions and the motives. Realizing this should be our constant drive toward the Lord's Prayer's phrasing, "forgive us our trespasses" (Mt. 6:12).
- ❖ "The LORD roars from Zion" (Amos 1:2).
Do you have one of those alarms that starts out quietly and then escalates in volume until your neighbors can hear it? God started out so quietly with man. In the Garden, we read of afternoon strolls and gentle provision. God is indeed patient and long-suffering. But he is still God. And he is a God who speaks. Paul explained it well. God's voice is heard in nature and in our hearts, yet there is a very clear expression of God that is unmistakable in its message. That expression is divine Scripture—the Bible. I think many of us fail to spend regular time in God's word hearing his voice because we do not keep track of it. We know the importance of time in his Word, but one day leads to another and without a routine that holds us accountable, times passes by with little to no time spent hearing him speak. We have an incredible gift in Scripture that should command our time and attention, yet at times we all take it for granted. Might I suggest we stop now and make a mental and spiritual commitment to regularly sit before God and his revelation and listen for his voice before it becomes a roar!
- ❖ "...they have rejected the law of the LORD" (Amos 2:4).
We know some basic laws that are not that troublesome for most of us. We stay out of trouble on stealing, murder, and many of the big ones. But we need to pause and consider that the law of the Lord was much more than that. When Jesus was asked the most important torah of the torah, he listed two: first, to love God and second to love our neighbor. How are we doing on the second point? Do we consider it met when we are kind to the people in our lives? Do we feel good about it when we give some money to a beggar or homeless person? If we give money to assist in an international tragedy are we satisfied? How are we as a nation on this point? Do our national priorities reflect a Christian thirst for justice regardless of power or position? Do we push our politicians to responsibly help educate and provide opportunities for everyone, regardless of status?

Bonus Discussion:

I suggest this as a topic after class. Discuss real help and compassion for those less fortunate. How can we use our blessings in the church and in America to be a blessing for others?

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