

Understanding the Book of Amos
Amos 7:10-16a (p. 977)

Intro

I. Sometimes we don't want to _____ what God's Word has to say...

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.... And he said: "The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers." (1:1,2)

Sometimes the Lord _____ like a lion in judgment because of the many _____ of the world.

Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.... Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.... Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.... Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment.... Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment... Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment... (1:3,6,9,11,13; 2:1)

God's _____ is not limited to _____ people or "those people out there."

Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem." Thus says the Lord: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined. (2:4-8)

_____ religion alone will not save us from God's judgment; God _____ both injustice and immorality.

Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. (3:1,2)

Our _____ relationship with God makes us more _____ for our sins.

Religion without _____ is worthless; religion is not an _____ to sin.

II. But we must _____ and obey.

“Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing?Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it? “For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?” (3:3-8)

As a _____, Amos has no real choice but to _____ the Word of the Lord.

“Hear this word.... The Lord God has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.... “I gave you... lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me,” declares the Lord. “I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; yet you did not return to me,” declares the Lord.... “I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me,” declares the Lord. (4:1,2,6,7,9,10)

Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:.... “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (5:1,21-24)

The Lord takes no _____ in hypocritical and unrepentant _____.

The Lord desires _____ and righteousness as the _____ of real faith and repentance.

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, “Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.” And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there, but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” v. 10-13

Then the Lord said... the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.” (7:9)

Some people prefer allegiance to their _____ over allegiance to God's _____.

Then the officials said to the king, “Let this man [Jeremiah] be put to death, for he is weakening the hands of the soldiers who are left in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man is not seeking the welfare of this people, but their harm.” (Jer. 38:4)

“If you release this man [Jesus], you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.” (Jn.19:12)

“These men [Paul and Silas] are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.” (Acts 16:20)

We must be willing to _____, no matter how awkward, _____, or unwanted.

Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. v. 14-16

For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. (Isaiah 8:11-13)

We must _____ the Lord and _____ God's Word as opportunity allows.

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it. (8:11,12)

We need to speak words of _____ and words of encouragement and _____.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (Col. 4:5,6)

"In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the Lord who does this. "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the Lord your God. (9:11-15)

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Religion without repentance is worthless; religion is not an excuse to sin.

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