

Where is God in the religiosity: Amos

Discussion Questions:

- Summarize the message of Amos in 1 – 2 sentences: what is the main take-away?
- What surprised you most from the book of Amos? Why?
- Why was Amos and his message unwelcome in Israel?
- In Amos' time, politics and religion were collaborating, and it wasn't always a good thing.
 - Give an example(s) of a time in history when the collaboration of politics and religion been a good thing?
 - Give an example(s) of a time in history when the collaboration of politics and religion has been a bad thing?
 - What are the dangers of this kind of collaboration?
- Amos' idea of righteousness was "right, equitable relationships between people, regardless of social differences."
 - How is his idea similar to our usual idea?
 - How is it different?
- Amos calls Israel (and us) to righteousness (right, equitable relationships between people, regardless of social differences) and justice (concrete actions to correct injustice and spread righteousness).
 - On a scale of 1-10 (1 is bad, 10 is excellent) how is the North American church doing at obeying this command?
 - On a scale of 1-10, how is Rexdale Alliance Church doing at obeying this command?
 - What could Rexdale Alliance Church do to move one number higher on your rating?
- In what ways have you personally given in to the comfort of religiosity and the worshiping of worship?
- In what ways have we as a church given in to the comfort of religiosity and the worshiping of worship?
- What are some things you think RAC should start doing to obey Amos 5:24 and "let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream"?

- What are some things you think RAC should consider stopping in our pursuit of heeding Amos' warnings?
- Jesus condemned the pharisees for tithing on mint, dill, and cumin but neglecting the more important matters of the law, like justice and mercy.
 - In what areas have we neglected justice and mercy?
 - To what people groups have we neglected justice and mercy?
 - Is there any people group to which we should not show justice and mercy?
 - If yes, who and why? If not, why not?
- Should Christians be involved in social justice causes and movements?
 - If yes, which ones?
 - If no, why not?
- What people group(s) has the North American church done a poor job of showing true righteousness to?
- What people group(s) has Rexdale Alliance Church done a poor job of showing true righteousness to?
- What do you think righteousness and justice should look like in response to the discovery of mass graves at residential schools? Explain your answer.
- If Jesus were to visit Rexdale Alliance Church today, do you think He is more likely to praise us for our righteousness and justice and how we love our neighbours as ourselves, or rebuke us for our religiosity? Explain your answer.
- How does a church take the worship of God seriously without tripping into religiosity?