

## Thursday, November 16, 2017 - Day 319 – Amos 6, Psalm 112, Matt 14

### Choosing God's Vision

The scriptures for today speak to two visions of life for humans through all time. One vision is taking care of ourselves. Making sure we get what we deserve with little or no thought to the needs or concerns of others. It is a materialistic view, robbed of the Spirit and separated from God. The other vision for humans is God's vision – a vision that includes blessings for ourselves and blessings for others. We are important in God's creation, but so is everyone and everything else. God's vision brings more blessings for all.

The prophet Amos spoke primarily to the injustice of the society of his day and the chasm between the very rich and the rest of God's people. Archeologists who study some of the architecture of Amos' day speak to a society in which there are some very large homes and lots of very small, humble dwellings. People weren't sharing what they had for the good of all, but were instead enriching themselves and living by prideful, disregard for others. God has a judgment against such living and promises the people that God's judgment will be visited on the rich and the proud through the destruction of the kingdom.

Psalm 112 offers the brighter vision of God's – people who follow in God's commandments and are blessed by God. They receive the blessings of this life and rise up in gracious, merciful, righteous living in their own lives and for the needs of others. They have strong hearts and share with those in need.

The passage from Matthew reveals the difference in the two visions. The worldly vision is seen in King Herod, who murders John the Baptist to maintain his pride and standing among his followers. The Godly vision is revealed in Jesus feeding the 5,000 by turning a scarcity into an abundance; walking on the water to save His followers in a storm; and healing the sick in the land of Gennesaret. God's vision calls us to place our trust in God alone and share what we have with others.

By The Rev. W. Frank Allen