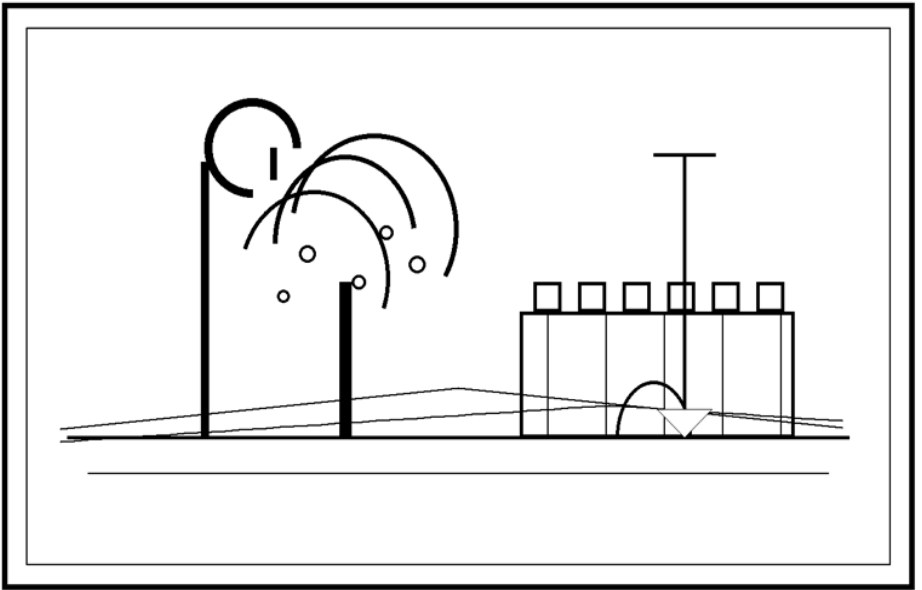


A MINOR PROPHET WITH A MAJOR MESSAGE

THE BOOK OF AMOS

God's Charge, God's Judgment, and God's Mercy



"Seek ye me, and ye shall live." Amos 5:4

A 5-Day Devotional Guide

Day 1 - Ordinary People, Holy Calling

Scripture:

I was no prophet...I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: And the Lord took me...and the Lord said unto me, 'Go, prophesy unto my people Israel'. Amos 7:14-15 KJV

Today's Truth:

God does not need impressive people. He uses surrendered people.

Amos was not a professional prophet with a polished resume. He was a shepherd and a fig farmer from Tekoa. He had no platform, no title, and no reason to be noticed by kings. But God called him, and that changed everything.

That is encouraging. God has always had a way of calling ordinary people into extraordinary usefulness. The issue is not whether you feel qualified. The issue is whether you are available. Amos reminds us that God can take a faithful person from an unnoticed place and give him a word that still speaks centuries later.

Your ordinary life may be the very place where God wants to form your obedience. Your home, your work, your friendships, your church, and your daily responsibilities are not interruptions to spiritual usefulness. They may be the field where God is preparing you to speak, serve, love, and stand for Him.

Prayer:

Lord, make me available. Use my ordinary life for Your extraordinary purposes.

Think About It:

Where might God be calling me to obey Him without waiting to feel more qualified?

Day 2 - Let the Spotlight Turn Inward

Scripture:

You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Amos 3:2 KJV

Today's Truth:

God's Word is not first a weapon to point at others. It is a mirror for our own hearts.

At first, Amos' listeners probably liked his sermon. He named the sins of the surrounding nations, and Israel could easily say, "Amen!" It is always easier to hear a message when it applies to someone else. But then the spotlight moved inward. God was not finished with Israel's enemies. He wanted to deal with Israel's heart.

That is where Amos becomes uncomfortable and necessary. The book asks us to stop listening only for what other people need to hear. It calls us to stand honestly before God and ask, "Lord, what are You saying to me?" Religious familiarity can make us feel safe, but it cannot replace surrender.

God loved Israel too much to let them hide behind their religious identity. He loves us too much to let us hide behind church attendance, Bible knowledge, or spiritual language. His conviction is not cruelty. It is mercy calling us back before our hearts grow harder.

Prayer:

Lord, turn the light of Your Word on my heart. Show me what needs to change.

Think About It:

Am I quicker to apply God's Word to others than to myself?

Day 3 - When Worship Becomes Noise

Scripture:

*But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.
Amos 5:24 KJV*

Today's Truth:

True worship cannot be separated from obedience, mercy, and righteousness.

Israel still had worship services. The songs were being sung. The offerings were being brought. The festivals were being observed. From the outside, everything looked active and religious. But God saw the heart beneath the activity. Their worship had become disconnected from their lives.

That is a serious warning. God is not impressed by songs of surrender from hearts that refuse to surrender. He is not honored by worship that never changes the way we treat people. Amos reminds us that Sunday worship should shape Monday living. If we sing about grace, we should become more gracious. If we praise God's mercy, we should become more merciful. If we worship a just God, we should care about what is right.

This does not mean worship must be perfect before it is acceptable. It means worship must be honest. God receives the praise of humble hearts that are willing to be changed. He wants worship that flows into a life of compassion, integrity, forgiveness, generosity, and justice.

Prayer:

Lord, connect my worship to my walk. Let my life match the songs I sing.

Think About It:

What is one place where my worship needs to show up in my daily behavior?

Day 4 - Standing Beside the Plumb Line

Scripture:

Behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand. Amos 7:7-8 KJV

Today's Truth:

The standard is God's Word, not culture, comparison, or comfort.

A plumb line is simple but revealing. A wall may look straight to the eye, but when the plumb line is placed beside it, every lean becomes obvious. God used that image to show Israel that outward success did not equal spiritual health. Compared to the nations around them, they may have felt secure. Compared to God's holiness, they were crooked.

We are tempted to measure ourselves by easier standards. We compare ourselves to culture. We compare ourselves to other people. We compare ourselves to the version of ourselves we used to be. But God's plumb line is His Word, His character, and His holiness.

That may sound frightening, but it is also gracious. God exposes what is crooked before the wall collapses. Conviction is mercy when it leads us to repentance. The Lord does not show us the truth in order to shame us. He shows us the truth so He can restore us, strengthen us, and make us straight again.

Prayer:

Lord, measure my life by Your Word and give me grace to respond with obedience.

Think About It:

Where have I been using the wrong standard to evaluate my life?

Day 5 - Seek Him and Live

Scripture:

Seek ye me, and ye shall live. Amos 5:4 KJV

In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen... 9:11 KJV

Today's Truth:

Judgment is real, but mercy is still speaking through Jesus Christ.

Amos is a heavy book, but it does not end in despair. God confronts sin, but He also calls people to life. "Seek Me and live" is the heartbeat beneath the warning. The God who exposes what is wrong is also the God who restores what is broken.

The final promise of Amos points forward to hope. God promises to raise up David's fallen tent, repair what is ruined, and rebuild what has collapsed. In Jesus Christ, that promise comes into focus. At the Cross, God's justice and mercy met together. Sin was not ignored; it was judged. But mercy provided a Savior who bore that judgment for us.

That means failure does not have to be final. A divided heart can be surrendered. A hardened heart can be softened. A complacent heart can be awakened. A broken life can be rebuilt. The invitation is still simple and serious: seek the Lord and live.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for bearing judgment so I could receive mercy. Restore my heart and make me fully Yours.

Think About It:

What area of my life needs to return to the Lord today?



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