

OT Prophets - Amos & Obadiah

Main Point: God was angry because His people were getting rich by oppressing their own kinsmen and rejecting the righteousness from His word.

Large Group Intro Question - Talk about a time in your life when everything seemed to be going right.

Small Group Question 1 - How can worldly success blind us to our spiritual need?

The people of Israel were in one of the most prosperous times of their nation's history. They assumed that this meant God was pleased with their lives and that they would only grow more prosperous. But in reality, God was angry because they had gained their prosperity through injustice. They were not willing to listen to the prophets' warnings because their lives seemed good at the time. When we find worldly success and have everything we need in the world, we sometimes forget our need for God. We become tempted to see our lives through worldly lenses and we miss the fact that our lives are not pleasing the Lord.

Small Group Question 2 - How do you think we as Americans may be tempted toward sins of injustice like the people of Israel?

America is one of the most prosperous nations in history. But we still live in a world where there are needs all around us. God accused His people of storing up wealth while neglecting and taking advantage of the poor and needy around them. If our hearts are not like God's heart, we will be tempted to live for our own wealth and advantage, rather than caring for others. God's heart is compassionate toward those in need and His people should be the first to support, defend, and strengthen them.

Teaching Break

Small Group Question 3 - Why is God's judgment with justice and certainty good news for His people?

Our world is clamoring for justice and trying in their own power to get it. The problem is that because of sin, our understand of justice is flawed. Often those who are most passionate about pursuing justice end up producing more injustice and those who try to protect the oppressed end up oppressing other people. The good news is that God is the perfect standard for justice and in the end, we can be certain that true justice will be done.

Small Group Question 4 - How does the promise of God's justice in Obadiah serve as a comfort to Christians in a world that does not love Jesus?

The enemies of God's people celebrated victories over them and boasted arrogantly against them. The message of Obadiah is that the enemies of God's people will not win in the end. As Christians, we may lose battles in this life. We may find ourselves on the wrong side of the world's history books. At times it may even seem like we have lost spiritual battles for a time. But God's justice will rule in the end. We can put our hope in His faithfulness no matter what the world boasts around us.

Answer to Remember

2 Peter 1:21

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.