

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____



JANUARY 31

The Indictment of Israel

Amos 2:4 – 3:15

Introduction

Rejection is difficult. When someone rejects you, it makes you feel worthless. You feel empty. You tend to look down on yourself.

Imagine being rejected by God. Israel, as a nation, is very similar to individual people; when everything is going good, we tend to view this as an endorsement of our lives. When things are going bad, we suddenly begin to pay attention to God and His teachings. We think that maybe we've gotten off track and that reconciliation with God will lead to reconciliation in the bank ledger.

Amos walked onto the streets of Jerusalem when the stock market was hitting record highs, political alliances were rolling and military might was moving forward. Worship services were full and worship leaders were both innovative and inspirational. In the middle of this blessed existence, Amos dared to suggest that God wasn't happy with His people, that God had in fact already rejected them.

Amos isn't a prophetic word about rejection, but a call to meaningful reconciliation...on God's terms. No negotiations. No grey areas. No bargaining, just a call to return to the relationship in meaningful, immeasurable ways.

Sermon Notes

- Judah is _____ because of their _____ of God.
- Israel's sins were greater than any others because they _____ their own people.
 - _____ trumps humanity.
 - _____ desire outweighs _____.
 - You have _____ the _____ leaders and marginalized the _____ devoted.
 - The _____ of worship is more important than the _____ of the worshipper's heart.
- Israel has not only _____ her first love, she's _____ Him altogether.

Word of Thought

I got my first job as a minister after being rejected by thirteen churches. Every church had a “good reason” for saying, “No, you’re not the right person.” But the rejection was still difficult. Those rejections led to a great first experience in ministry that I wouldn’t trade for anything. When have you had a good experience with rejection...when you really learned a valuable lesson from being denied?

Word of Study

Read Amos 2:4 – 3:15

Based on the sermon and the commentary, what sin is God most angry about? What led to His rejection of Israel?

Kid’s Word Search

D	B	A	S	S	D	D	G	H	U	U	O	R	R	U	A	N	C	I
P	C	O	P	I	R	U	Y	M	R	T	C	O	R	R	U	P	T	E
H	O	Y	I	L	E	C	V	A	C	C	O	R	R	U	P	T	E	D
Q	N	W	R	E	J	E	C	T	I	O	N	G	D	F	G	G	R	T
D	V	F	I	G	E	H	J	E	M	N	T	B	V	F	Z	X	X	C
L	E	F	T	O	C	L	L	R	A	P	E	L	K	O	J	R	O	T
K	N	F	U	L	T	Q	Q	I	Y	Y	N	U	U	R	R	O	U	F
G	I	F	A	S	E	X	U	A	L	Y	T	U	U	G	E	N	C	E
C	E	X	L	W	D	T	P	L	P	H	A	T	H	O	L	Y	S	O
I	N	N	O	I	T	E	R	I	O	R	R	U	P	T	E	D	H	O
T	C	E	X	U	A	L	R	S	A	N	C	T	I	T	Y	G	G	G
T	E	J	E	C	T	H	G	M	U	T	R	G	W	E	G	H	T	O
Y	G	I	C	V	B	M	O	O	O	H	G	J	H	N	B	G	F	E

*find the words
from the fill-in-
the-blanks*

Word of Discussion

1) It's been said that God only rejects those who have rejected Him. Why is this true?

2) God speaks through the prophets to remind us of priorities. One of those priorities is taking care of God's people (Galatians 6:9-10, Acts examples, admonition from Amos, etc.). How do we balance taking care of the needs of other believers with taking care of non-believers? How is taking care of God's people a testimony to the world around us?

3) Israel became a nation where materialism, sexuality and corruption were exalted while spiritual leaders were mocked and marginalized. How can we avoid falling into this same trap?

4) One minister made the comment, "While our goal should not be designing convenient worship, there is nothing noble about making worship inconvenient either." Israel was more concerned with the convenience of worship than with the content of the heart. In what ways do you personally become overly focused on convenience and personal preference?

5) In what ways can Christians change the content of their hearts and increase their commitment to Christ in order to prevent becoming a convenience-centered Christian?

6) We can get so caught up in *how* we worship that we forget *the God* we worship. We can become so active in social justice that we forget the God of justice. What helps you keep worship and service God-focused? What helps you keep your heart right before God? Share this with your group and with your leaders.

Word of Action

Write down one materialistic attitude you want to set aside in order to more fully pursue God. Write down one sexually oriented TV program or form of entertainment you are willing to sacrifice in order to keep your heart more pure. Write down one way you can encourage your spiritual leaders to remain holy in their walk with Christ. Share these with each other and pray for each other.

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