

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____



FEBRUARY 7

Bashing the Babes of Bashan

Amos 4

Introduction

How would you like to be called a “cow”? No one likes this description, but it’s been used appropriately in several settings. Amos 4 is one such setting. He calls the leading women of the day, “cows of Bashan.” They aren’t just women. They are fat, demanding, and self-indulgent. Their indulgence has no regard for the impoverished people around them. They want to eat, drink and be merry. They want their husbands to bring the drinks and set the table. They insist on having their way.

One cannot live in America today and not recognize this kind of disgraceful behavior. We’re getting to such a point of obesity and self-indulgence in our country, that our children are dealing with diseases previously common only to adults (i.e. heart problems, diabetes). Very few people are willing to speak

up about it because it seems insensitive. Amos, apparently, didn't have any sensitivity training. Our children, our wives, our husbands are consumed with consuming. The problem is, that we can't consume here without depriving others elsewhere.

The message of Amos in chapter 4 screams a loud message to indulgent societies like ours. The question is: Will we listen?

Sermon Notes

Bashing the Babes of Bashan

- God often tries to get the attention of His people through _____. However, sometimes _____ history has to be _____.
- When God _____ or _____ His intent is the same: _____.
- The women of Bashan...
 - Demanded that the _____ become personal _____.
 - Wanted _____, _____ and _____.
 - Didn't care who _____.
- No matter what God tried, the people would not _____.

Lesson: You can be very _____ and your life completely _____ and not _____ the _____ nature of your existence.

Word of Thought

The Center for Disease Control writes, “In 2008, only one state (Colorado) had a prevalence of obesity less than 20%. Thirty-two states had a prevalence equal to or greater than 25%; six of these states (Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia) had a prevalence of obesity equal to or greater than 30%.” Obesity among women and children is especially on the rise and startling to see. Obesity can be caused by a number of factors. However, most of these factors have to do with over-indulgence. When it comes to over-indulgence, what’s your weak spot? Is it eating, spending, shopping, etc.?

Word of Study

After reading Amos 4, what repetitive phrase do you notice?

When you read about the women in this chapter, how can they be held responsible for the oppression of the poor? How is their indulgence connected to their husbands’ behavior and the effect on the, “have-nots?”

In the Bible, meeting God is something we are called to desire. However, you can live in such a way that meeting God isn't a good thing. Look at verses 12 – 13. What does God say will result from this kind of behavior?

Word of Discussion

1) We have a phrase in our culture, "Honey-do list." These are tasks that wives often have for their husbands to accomplish. Traditionally, women have served their husbands in the home while their husbands worked to provide for the family. We often forget that many cultures have become affluent enough for the women to grow lazy and demanding. When do we cross the line from needing help and support from each other to becoming sinfully lazy in the home?

2) When does our affluence become a negative influence spiritually?

3) Amos seems to indicate that God withholds blessings in order to get our attention; that God utilizes nature to make us pay attention. Why would this be an effective approach for God to use?

4) Jesus says that it's easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 19:24). If this is the case, should wealth be considered a blessing from God or a strategy of Satan?

5) In Amos, God continually calls His people to return. What does it mean to return to God? How do we return to God if we don't think we've ever left Him? How do you know if you've left Him or not?

Word of Action

It is true that we can best respond to Amos' words here by spiritually returning to God. But, we can also respond by changing from lazy and demanding to active and giving. Share with you group, your spouse, your family or your friends one specific way you're going to shift from laziness toward Godly activity this week. And, share with your group who will benefit from your healthier work ethic.

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