

FAMISHED



Prophetic Word of Amos

January - March 2010

This Book Belongs to _____



FEBRUARY 21

The Day God Hated Worship

Amos 5:18-27

Introduction

I love a BBQ. Not just the gathering to eat with friends, but the actual cooking process. Nothing makes me crave eating more than smelling grilled meats. The fragrance can be so strong that neighbors get cranky just thinking how good the food on your plate will be while they finish off yesterday's leftovers. I know because I've thought that myself.

The prayers and lives of the Saints have been considered a "good smell" to God (see Ephesians 5:2, Philippians 4:18). But when our lives are not being lived right, we just smell. Our odor becomes a spiritual stench to God. He can't stand to be around us because of our spiritual BO (body odor).

Just as our worship of God can power our lives for God, our lives should also empower our worship. Our worship to God goes far beyond Sunday morning (or the Sabbath Day for Israel). Worship happens when we lay our lives on the altar of God daily *and* when we gather together on Sunday (Romans 12:1-2). It's not *either/or*; it's *both/and*. One thing we should all desire: to smell good in the presence of God!

Sermon Notes

The people of God should look forward to the day of the _____ . Why?

- It won't be _____ but _____
- It will be like jumping from the _____ into the _____ (running from a lion only to meet a bear).

God could not stand their _____ because He was not honored by their _____.

- Their offerings _____ to _____ instead of being a _____ offering or _____.
- Their songs became _____ (see 1 Cor. 13)

God's demand: Let _____ roll and _____ flow.

Lesson: What we do Monday through Saturday can completely _____ our _____ on Sunday.

Word of Thought

What's your favorite smelling food and when do you love this smell the most?

Word of Study

Before you meet for LIFE Group, read Amos 5:18 – 27.

According to this passage, why shouldn't the people of God look forward to meeting God? Why shouldn't the "day of the Lord" be considered a good day?

Why did God hate and despise their worship festivals? (**Note:** God never says they did any act of worship inappropriately, so don't fall into that trap).

God gives them specific instructions to change their worship. What does He command (see vs. 24)?

Word of Discussion

1) In the 1980's the "worship wars" began in American churches. This revolution was born out of a frustration with unfelt worship and an atmosphere in most churches that did not allow for physical expression of praise. A wide variety of changes were made that changed the music and liturgy of most churches. While this movement toward freedom was a good thing for most people, it also created a focus on the "production" of worship. God speaks a word through Amos about worship that applies to all people of all time: Godly living produces acceptable worship. Without Godly living, your worship is not acceptable. Read Romans 12:1-2 and Amos 15:18-27. How do lives seeking justice and righteousness lead to worship experiences that are both pleasing to God and fulfilling to us? What is the connection? Try to be specific and give examples of how one is connected to the other. Share experiences you've had where your Godly actions during the week led you to a powerful worship experience.

2) Not once in Amos 5 does God criticize what the people are doing in worship. He only points out that their lives distorted their worship. In general, what kind of distortion do you believe we create through our habits and practices that make it hard for God to hear our praise?

3) We often refer to Sunday as “The Lord’s Day.” While it’s true that Sunday is the anniversary of the Lord’s resurrection day, do you think this choice of wording creates a deeper thought that God only gets one day out of seven each week?

Word of Action

James wrote, “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin”(James 4:17). When we know what’s right to do and ignore it, psychologists call this “self-betrayal.” When we engage in self-betrayal, we almost always behave poorly towards other people in an effort to justify ourselves. Self-betrayal leads to injustice and unrighteousness. Sometimes we only have one chance to do the right thing at the right time. On other occasions we have the opportunity to go back and get it right. Share with your LIFE Group one thing you want to get right this week and not leave undone. Come back next week prepared to share your adventures with each other and how it impacted your worship of God on Sunday.

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