

SERMON NOTES
August 15, 2010
THE LION HAS ROARED
“Prepare to Meet God”
Amos 4:1-13

“Engaging with God as His faithful covenant people...”

1. By BEING COMPASSIONATE (vv. 1-3)

Q. What is luxury?

A. Comes from a LATIN word that means EXCESSIVE.

Luxury does not mean owning abundant possessions so much as allowing possessions to OWN US.

Q. Who was committing this sin?

A. The WEALTHY, but especially the WIVES of the leaders – people who had gotten rich by RUTHLESSLY and ILLEGALLY robbing others

Q. Why did Amos use the image of “cows”?

A. THEY WERE FATTENING THEMSELVES UP FOR THE COMING SLAUGHTER (not because they were overweight)

Q. What happened to them?

2. By TRULY WORSHIPING (vv. 4-5)

Amos used “holy IRONY” to expose their HYPOCRISY.

- 1) Their worship had become an exercise of self-CONGRATULATION.
- 2) Their worship IGNORED the WORD of God.
- 3) Their worship had become self-SATISFYING rather than God-GLORIFYING.

3. By learning from HISTORY (vv. 6-11)

The people were OBSTINATE.

FIVE times Amos says to the people, “yet you did not return to Me” (vv. 6,8,9,10,11)

God’s covenant with the Jews clearly stated that He would BLESS them if they OBEYED His law and would DISCIPLINE them if they disobeyed (Duet. 27-29).

Some disciplines that God sent to Israel to bring His people BACK to HIMSELF:

- 1) Famine (v.6)
- 2) Drought (vv. 7-8)
- 3) Destruction of crops (v. 9)
- 4) Sickness (v. 10a)
- 5) Defeat in war (v. 10b)
- 6) Catastrophe (v. 11)

4. By BOWING in AWE before Him (vv. 12-13)

When a servant of God praises the Lord in the face of impending calamity, it shows he is a person of great faith (Hab. 3:16-19).

We are reminded that our God...

... is the CREATOR

...is the OMNISCIENT God (who knows what we are thinking)

...is the Lord of Hosts

CORE CHRISTIAN VALUES – WEEK 5

BELIEF – “What We Need to Know”

Belief #5 - Identity in Christ: the belief that a person is significant because of his or her position as a child of God (John 1:12-13)

PRACTICE – “What We Endeavor to Do”

Practice #5 - Biblical Community: fellowshiping with other Christians to fulfill God’s purposes in our life, in others’ lives, and in the world (Acts 2:42-47)

VIRTUE – “What We Expect to Be”

Virtue #5 - Loving: unconditionally loving others (1 John 4:10-12)

CALVARY COTTAGE COMMUNITY

Discussion:

1. What is my attitude toward wealth?
2. What is my attitude toward worship?
3. The test of a spiritual experience is, "Do I know God better and am I more like Jesus Christ?".

*Am I more like Jesus today than ever before? Explain.

Discuss.

*How do I become more like Jesus? Discuss your plan.

Review next week.

*How can I grow consistently?

4. How can we help the poor? Feed the hungry? Care for widows? Care for orphans?

Prayer Requests:

Praises:

Verse to memorize:

"AMOS: THE LION HAS ROARED" (A ten-part series from the prophet Amos)

Amos is the first of the "writing" prophets. At the time of Amos' writing, the nation of Israel (both North & South) was enjoying unprecedented prosperity and political stability. However, God was warning His people that significant change was on the horizon. We see the first use of "Day of the Lord" (re: God's end time judgment) in the Book of Amos.

You might be surprised by the remarkable parallel between Amos' day nearly 3000 years ago and what is happening today.

We will be teaching this timely series each Sunday morning during worship services. You are encouraged to join in an extended time of application of each Sunday's message during Calvary Cottage Community (CCC) each week. If you are not currently involved in a CCC group, please become a participant. You may contact a facilitator (see the board on the south wall of the sanctuary) or Pastor Rick if you have questions.

Week 1	Introduction to Amos and prophetic writings	
Week 2	"The Awesome God"	1:1-2
Week 3	"The Sweep of God's Judgment"	1:3-2:16
Week 4	"The Justness of God's Justice"	Ch. 3
Week 5	"Prepare to Meet Your God"	Ch. 4
Week 6	"False Security in Religious Practices"	Ch. 5
Week 7	"False Security in Military & Material Success"	Ch.6
Week 8	"Who Pulls the Strings? Who Speaks the Truth?"	Ch. 7
Week 9	"A Famine for the Word of God"	Ch.8
Week 10	"In Anger Remembering Mercy"	Ch. 9