

July 19

“Not Ready for the Return”

Amos 5:18–24

Sermon:

They are practicing religious hypocrisy.

“Go ahead and offer sacrifices to the idols at Bethel. Keep on disobeying at Gilgal. Offer sacrifices each morning, and bring your tithes every three days. Present your bread made with yeast as an offering of thanksgiving. Then, give your extra voluntary offerings so you can brag about it everywhere! This is the kind of thing you Israelites love to do,” says the Sovereign Lord. Amos 4:4-5

“I hate all your show and pretense—the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offerings and grain offerings. I won’t even notice all your choice peace offerings. Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps.” Amos 5:21-23

How hot is my heart for Jesus?

They are addicted to luxury and comfort.

What sorrow awaits you who lounge in luxury in Jerusalem, and you who feel secure in Samaria! You are famous and popular in Israel, and people go to you for help. How terrible for you who sprawl on ivory beds and lounge on your couches, eating the meat of tender lambs from the flock and of choice calves fattened in the stall. You sing trivial songs to the sound of the harp and fancy yourselves to be great musicians like David. You drink wine by the bowlful and perfume yourselves with fragrant lotions. You care nothing about the ruin of your nation. Amos 6:1, 4-6

When God ceases to be the treasure of your heart, more than likely your heart will fasten itself onto the pleasures and comforts of this life.

If Jesus were to ask, “Sell everything you have, give it to the poor, and follow me” what would you do?

They are not chasing justice.

Listen to me, you fat cows living in Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy, and who are always calling to your husbands, “Bring us another drink!” Amos 4:1

How you hate honest judges! How you despise people who tell the truth! You trample the poor, stealing their grain through taxes and unfair rent...You oppress good people by taking bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

Amos 5:10-11

You measure out grain with dishonest measures and cheat the buyer with dishonest scales. And you mix the grain you sell with chaff swept from the floor. Then you enslave poor people for one piece of silver or a pair of sandals.

Amos 8:5-6

How am I chasing justice?

Repent

Jesus, forgive my compulsion to be slow to listen, yet quick to angrily speak.

I choose to repent and demonstrate the fruit of repentance.

Jesus, forgive any rudeness, indifference and/or absence of compassion displayed towards people of color, the poor, the foreigner, or anyone who is at a disadvantage.

I choose to repent and demonstrate the fruit of repentance.

Jesus, forgive me of my addiction to personal pleasure and of any comfort that has come at the expense of others.

I choose to repent and demonstrate the fruit of repentance.