

Amos 3:8

“The lion has roared— who will not fear? The Sovereign Lord has spoken—”

“It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.” – Epictetus.

“The problem is many of the people in need of saving are in churches. And at least part of what they need saving from is the idea that God see’s the world the way that they do.” - Barbara Brown Taylor

Amos 7:12

¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don’t prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king’s sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.”

Amos 7:14-15

“I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. ¹⁵ But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Jeremiah 20:8-9

⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out
proclaiming violence and destruction.
So the word of the Lord has brought me
insult and reproach all day long.

⁹ But if I say, "I will not mention his word
or speak anymore in his name,"
his word is in my heart like a fire,
a fire shut up in my bones.
I am weary of holding it in;
indeed, I cannot.

Amos 5:1-5

A Lament and Call to Repentance

Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:

² “Fallen is Virgin Israel,
never to rise again,
deserted in her own land,
with no one to lift her up.”

³ This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Israel:
“Your city that marches out a thousand strong
will have only a hundred left;
your town that marches out a hundred strong
will have only ten left.”

⁴ This is what the Lord says to Israel:

“Seek me and live;

⁵ do not seek Bethel,
do not go to Gilgal,

do not journey to Beersheba.

For Gilgal will surely go into exile,

and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.”

Amos 5:6-8

⁶ Seek the Lord and live,
or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire;
it will devour them,
and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

⁷ There are those who turn justice into bitterness
and cast righteousness to the ground.

⁸ He who made the Pleiades (plee-a-dees) and Orion, (stars, constellations)
who turns midnight into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out over the face of the land—
the Lord is his name.

Amos 5:9-11

⁹ With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold
and brings the fortified city to ruin.

¹⁰ There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court
and detest the one who tells the truth.

¹¹ You levy a straw tax on the poor
and impose a tax on their grain.

Therefore, though you have built stone mansions,
you will not live in them;
though you have planted lush vineyards,
you will not drink their wine.

Amos 5:12-15

¹² For I know how many are your offenses
and how great your sins.

There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes
and deprive the poor of justice in the courts.

¹³ Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,
for the times are evil.

¹⁴ Seek good, not evil,
that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

¹⁵ Hate evil, love good;
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the Lord God Almighty will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 5:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore this is what the Lord, the Lord God Almighty, says:

“There will be wailing in all the streets
and cries of anguish in every public square.

The farmers will be summoned to weep
and the mourners to wail.

¹⁷ There will be wailing in all the vineyards,
for I will pass through your midst,”
says the Lord.

Amos 5:18-20

The Day of the Lord

¹⁸ Woe to you who long
for the day of the Lord!

Why do you long for the day of the Lord?
That day will be darkness, not light.

¹⁹ It will be as though a man fled from a lion
only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house
and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.

²⁰ Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

Amos 5:21-24

²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

²³ Away with the noise of your songs!
I will not listen to the music of your harps.

²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Amos 5:25-27

²⁵ “Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings
forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel?”

²⁶ You have lifted up the shrine of your king,
the pedestal of your idols,
the star of your god^[b]—
which you made for yourselves.

²⁷ Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus,”
says the LORD, whose name is God Almighty.

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“Justice is the state that exists when there is equity, balance, and harmony in relationships and in society. Injustice is the state that exists when unjust people do violence to peace and shalom and create inequity, imbalance, and dissonance.”

— Ken Wytsma

Isaiah 58:6-7

⁶ “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly^[a] with your God.

Psalm 89:14

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne...”

Matt 23:23-24

Seven Woes on the Teachers of the Law and the Pharisees

²³ “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴ You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Luke 10:29

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus,

“And who is my neighbor?”

Matthew 25

The Sheep and Goats

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

James 1:27

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 5:1-3

Warning to Rich Oppressors-

Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming on you. ² Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. ³ Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days.

James 5:4-6

⁴ Look! The wages you failed to pay the workers who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. ⁵ You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the innocent one, who was not opposing you.

“If people are born in sin and people build a society, that society will be structured in ways that reinforce whatever sins dominate the hearts of those who build it. Therefore, even if many people’s hearts change a few generations later, those structures might still perpetuate the problems associated with that society’s “original sins.”

- Kelly Hamren

"Graham clearly felt an obligation to speak against segregation, but he also believed his first duty was to appeal to as many people as possible,..."

"Sometimes he found these two convictions difficult to reconcile."

-William Martin (*A Prophet with Honor*)

“I remember Billy telling me he regretted not doing more to remove the ropes of racism.

He repented and asked for my forgiveness. Even though he had done so much, Billy had humility and I admire him for this.”

- John Perkins

On The Good Samaritan

“We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbor. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbor, and you must love your neighbor.”

-Timothy Keller,

(Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just)

Amos 5:4 “Seek me and live;...”

Amos 5:6 “Seek the Lord and live,...”

Amos 5:14 “Seek good, not evil, that you may live.”

“We may not choose apathy, but when we choose anything other than love and empathetic justice, we get apathy by default.”
— Ken Wytsma

“Well done my good and faithful servant”.