

Amos Part 5 5:1-17 “Does Your Heart Break God’s Heart?”

Community Group Questions

1. Can you think of anything you are doing that “breaks God’s heart”?
2. Does it change your attitude toward that sin knowing that God feels that way toward it?
3. Describe a time in which you were broken because of your sin?
4. What are some “evil” things that you should hate but you don’t?
5. Do you have any quiet time during the day?

Remember the first time you realized that your parents were once kids? It was mind blowing experience, maybe you saw a picture or maybe your grandparents said something like “when your dad or mom was a kid” then you picture your mom or dad’s adult head on a little kid’s body. Because of this new found knowledge that you had you then started to realize that your parents have feelings, hopes, dreams and desires. They are actually people too

As a child of God you have to come to the realization that God has feelings too...because we are made in His image we know we feel emotions He does as well *Psalm 94:9 “He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?”*

At this point in the book of Amos we are forced to ask this question about our hearts...”Does your heart break God’s heart?”

Israel was breaking God’s heart and chapter 5 gives us a Lament (a passionate expression of grief or sorrow). What we notice about this Lament is its poetic structure, which is a chiasm or referred to as the chiastic structure.

Which looks like this as referenced in TJ Betts commentary on Amos

- A. Lament the death of the nation Vrs 1-3
- B. Call to seek God and live. Vrs 4-6

- C. Accusations of no justice Vrs 7
- D. Hymn to God Vrs 8-9
- C. Accusations of no justice Vrs 10-13
- B. Call to seek God and live. Vrs 14-15
- A. Lament the death of the nation Vrs 16-17

This structure is used over 1000 times in the Scriptures and it's repetition reminds us of the importance of what God is communicating.

Amos is communicating to God's people that God has feelings and a heart and how you are acting is breaking His heart. Today's question for us is "Does my heart break God's heart?"

We will find out by looking at three things...what breaks God's heart, the result is our hearts are broken and finally what God's heart desires of His people.

What breaks God's heart...

-Seeing His people...reap the consequences of their sin

Natural consequences of our sin remind us of the laws of cause and effect, for every action there is a reaction. **vrs 1-3 & 16-17**

God is not happy when His people turn away from Him. Matthew 23:37 *"Oh Jerusalem how I long to gather you but you are not willing"*

Have you ever connected the dots when it came to your sin? I was materialistic with my finances now I am deep in debt, I didn't follow God's design in my relationship and now it is a mess or none existent, I was dishonest in a situation, now no one trusts me. These are the natural consequences.

Seeing you suffer due to the consequences of your sins, breaks God's heart.

-Worshiping false gods (false religion) **vrs 5.** One of the things we realize from the path Israel was on was they lost sight of the One True God...how do we know this? Not only from what is stated here but what happened 800 years later when Jesus came on the scene and they did not receive Him.

We live in a time in which people believe in a God that they want to believe in. What I mean by that is...sure we have other religions such as Muslim, Buddhism cults etc. Even more common people pick and choose what they want to believe about God and essentially create their own religion, unorganized and say "I am spiritual" The god they believe in does not exist and God looks and says "that's not me"

Its like if I stood up here and said...I love my son...he is 6 foot tall a sr in high school and a star basketball player. Some of you may say wow, other may say that weird...and he would say that's not who I am.

This can happen to us if we are not careful, if we don't know much about Him or our worship becomes bland, rote or something we do. *GK Chesterton said "Let your religion be less of theory and more of a love affair."*

When we worship a false God it breaks God's heart because it is not Him.

-Commit Injustice vrs 7 The sweetness of justice has been turned to wormwood which is a plant with a bitter taste. God's heart was broken because they lacked justice "cast down righteousness to the earth" is a statement that says rather than looking to the God and His holiness and righteousness in judgments over sin they took matters in their own hand and judged how they saw fit. Which when sinners

with emotions & motives that ignore Godly standards start to make judgments they fall short.

Vrs 10-12 They hate people who uphold justice and speak the truth, they oppress the poor and take bribes.

Have you ever been on the other side of injustice? It's a terrible feeling when the very people that are supposed to uphold laws, defend the vulnerable and as the Scriptures say speak out for those who have no voice don't what they are supposed to.

Maybe you are guilty of injustice...you are not fair in the way you deal with others, you treat some better than others. Maybe you are an employer and you are not fair with your workers. Maybe you are in a leadership role and rather than uphold justice you take advantage of your position.

It breaks God's heart when there is injustice because people look to man rather than God for standards.

When we fail to listen the result is , **Our hearts are broken....Vrs 8-9**
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We may go on for sometime breaking the heart of God and not care or not know and because God rules all and created everything there is judgment of sin.

When we find that out, our heart breaks...it may break now in this life when we hear and trust the GOSPEL message. Coming to the realization that we are deep need of Jesus.

Harry Ironside said God is looking for broken people who have judged themselves in the light of the cross of Christ.

John Newton said My grand point in preaching is to break the hard heart, and to heal the broken one.

Or it may break later when we pass from this earth and are judged for our sin...but it will break.

So finally based on this passage we will learn...

What God's heart desires...4,6 & 13-15

-Seek Him and live vrs 4&6 Jesus came to give life and life abundantly John 10:10, Matthew 6:33

Learn about Him, find out His character, seek to follow Him each day, care what He thinks.

-Keep Silent Vrs 13 We spend so much time talking and arguing and filling dead air space or trying to explain why we do what we do.-- -----

-Mark Twain said "It's better to remain silent and be thought a fool than open your mouth and remove all doubt"

-Seek good and not evil vrs 14 One of our biggest problems with sin is that we love it.....Maybe you love...

To gossip, to get drunk, to lust, to hurt people with your words, to cheat, to steal, to lie.

-Hate evil and love good vrs 15 Romans 12:9 tells us we should have disgust for what is evil. (parents they will love what you love and hate what you hate) What example are you setting?

-Establish justice vrs 15 Christians should not only do right they should fight for right to be done. This gets increasingly hard as there is so much injustice in this world. There is a myriad of causes we can support and get involved in, so what do we support. GOSPEL centered ministries around the world. Why? Because the gospel changes people one by one and one by one people change their corner of the world by living out the Gospel...compassion, love, sacrifice, generosity.

Non-Christians can take care of non-Christian charity organizations
the call of the Christian is to establish justice in a Gospel centered way.

When we follow the desires of God's heart our hearts and His heart will not be broken.