

Amos Part 10 8:1-14

Community Group Questions

1. What are you doing to reach out to those who do not know God?
2. How has guilt of a sin changed what you do?
3. Have you had a time in life in which you felt God was not there?
4. Have you experienced a time in which you really felt the presence of God?

Two weeks ago we looked at the first 3 visions that Amos was given and now we are looking at the fourth vision...A basket of ripe summer fruit.

Israel seemed to be oblivious to the fact that their hay day of prosperity was coming to an end. They ignored all the warnings from the Lord. Today we are going to look at chapter 8 and find out about two things Israel seemed unaware of and what happens to them because of that.

Going along with our big idea "Where is Your Heart?" the question we are going to answer today is "Is my heart aware?"

Is your heart aware...That the "Day" is coming?

Vrs 1-3 Summer fruit symbolized the end of the agricultural cycle in Israel and is an illustration of Israel's coming judgment...this is the end. On that "day" the day of the Lord, which was the day of judgment. So for Israel this was the Lord saying all these blessings are coming to an end and you will feel the righteous judgment of God.

-This is important for any of you that have not trusted in Jesus. The day is coming for each person to face judgment. You may have a great life of prosperity and good fortune, you may be successful, famous and skate through life with minimal or no troubles. That does not change the fact that you will die and stand before your creator. GOSPEL

Some skeptics and critics think...the cool or fun people are all in hell
Mark Twain said "Go to heaven for the climate, go to hell for the company"

Here is the problem...the biblical teaching of hell is outer darkness, loneliness and people can jest about it but its real.

-This is a concern for all of us because we know people who have not trusted in Christ.

Francis Schaffer said "In a fallen world, we must be willing to face the fact that however lovingly we preach the gospel, if a man rejects it he will be miserable. It is dark out there."

Is your heart aware...That you are guilty?

Verse 4-10 *Guilt-the fact of having committed a specified or implied offense or crime.*

Israel was guilty and the two main sins they were accused of here are **greed and dishonesty.**

Because they were guilty they deserved to be judged. Because God passed by them in verse 2 and gave them ample time to wake up and realize their guilt, but they didn't and that is why judgment was coming.

Because they did not recognize their guilt they would not stop what they were doing wrong so the Lord said...guess what...I will stop you.

Or even worse they did not care that they were guilty because they had no consequences yet...remember things were going well. They may have thought hey if we were doing something wrong things could not possibly go this well.

What are you guilty of? Two types of sins that

-Sins of Commission-You may be thinking to yourself, hey I am doing things wrong but nothing is really happening to me...it must be ok with God. That's how Israel felt

-Sins of Omission James 4:17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Voltaire "Every person is guilty of the good they did not do"

1 John 1:8 "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us".

Its comical to me when people accuse us as Christians of thinking we are perfect. The very fact that we are Christians starts with admitting we are not perfect. It takes more humility to trust Jesus then it does to reject Him.

-Being fully aware of our guilt is a constant reminder of a few things...

1. Admit our sin that our guilt is pointing out and confess that sin to Jesus.
2. There are things about what we do that need to change. We are all works in progress that are being transformed into the image of Jesus 2 Cor 3:18

Some of you are keenly aware that you need to make some adjustments in your life, so you own up it. Your conscience bothers you when you sin.

Evan Esar said "Conscience is what makes a boy tell his mother before his sister does."

God sees what you are doing so you better own up to it.

3. God has mercy on us. I deserve to be punished, or I deserve to pay but God had mercy on me.
4. I should have mercy on others when they sin against me. Even though other people are guilty of sinning against us we should have mercy on them.

The Green River Killer

Gary Leon Ridgway is better known as the infamous Green River Killer. In 2003, he confessed to the murders of 48 women. In 2011, Ridgway was convicted of the murder of Rebecca Marrero, bringing the victim count up to 49. By his own confession, he may have murdered as many as 60 women. Ridgway especially despised prostitutes and targeted them for his killings. At Ridgway's 2003 sentencing, the families of the victims had the opportunity to speak out and address Ridgway directly.

Understandably, many were angry and lashed out at Ridgway for the unimaginable grief he had put them through, "I hope you suffer every day of your life" "You are going to rot in hell for what you have done". As Ridgway stonily listened to the family members express their grief and anger, one person came up and said something unexpected. Robert Rule, the father of teenage victim Linda Jane Rule, to speak, Ridgway finally showed a glimpse of remorse.

Rule's words to Ridgway were: "Mr. Ridgway . . . there are people here that hate you. I'm not one of them. You've made it difficult to live up to what I believe, and that is what God says to do, and that's to forgive. You are forgiven, sir." These words brought Ridgway to tears

Ridgway knew of his guilt he admitted it...but it took the forgiveness and mercy of a Christian man to bring him to a sense of remorse.

Is your heart aware...That God will not turn His back on you?

Verse 11-14 God's Silence. This was part of God's judgment, He was turning His back on them. This is odd for us to hear because it is not how he treats us now. It is not that God has changed, we see Him do this in Romans 1 in which it talks about the passive wrath of God in which "he gives people up o their own desires" but these are unbelievers

We may at times feel...where are you God?

We are brought to this point so we seek guidance from God's Word. Have you noticed when you are at the lowest points in your life that is when you seek after the presence of God?

As believers our relationship to God the Father is covered under the Blood of Christ and because of that we have very specific promises about God's presence in our lives.

Watchman Nee said "I must first have the sense of God's possession of me before I can have the sense of His presence with me."

The presence of God in the life of a believer...

-You have Jesus

Hebrews 13:15 "be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

-Nothing can separate us from His love

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

-The Holy Spirit lives in us

1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

-We are secure

John 10:27-30 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Is your heart aware that although we will stand in judgment before God, we are guilty of sin but because we trust in Jesus He will never leave us.