

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Amos: The Radical Justice of God

Message 5: At Ease in Zion

Amos 6:1 (ESV)

¹“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!

The right sort of “ease” ...

The wrong sort of “ease” ...

“This is a carnal ease, a fleshly security; it is not the confidence of a man who is pardoned, but the ease of a hardened wretch who has learned to despise the gallows! It is not the assurance of one who is on the rock, but the ease of a senseless drunk whose house is tottering from its sandy foundations, and yet he riots at full speed! It is not the calm of a soul at peace with God, but the ease of a madman, who, because he has hidden his sin from his own eyes, thinks he has concealed it from God. It is the ease and peace of one who has grown callous, hardened, brutalized, stupid, sullen, and careless, who has begun a sleep which God grant may soon be broken, or else it will surely bring him where he shall make his bed in hell!”

- Spurgeon, *Scourge for Slumbering Souls*, A sermon delivered on Sunday, November 3, 1861

“Zion” =

“Samaria” =

Sinfully “at ease” because of ...

... _____ (v. 1-2)

Amos 6:2a (ESV)

² Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms?

Those in the South (Zion) were trusting in ...

and those in the North (Samaria) were trusting in ...

But God tells them to look at 3 cities that each were destroyed, even though they had the some of the same reasons for confidence.

His message? Why should I preserve you for your supposed goodness when you are _____ than the cities I have already destroyed?

... _____ (v. 3)

Amos 6:2b-3 (ESV)

² Or is their territory greater than your territory, ³ O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

His message? Though you may believe that _____ is coming, you put off any response to God for another day, continuing to live as if God's rule and rules don't matter.

Luke 12:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'

Acts 24:24-25 (ESV)

²⁴ After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁵ And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity, I will summon you."

... _____ (v. 4),

Amos 6:4 (ESV)

⁴ "Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall ...

His message? Your pleasure-seeking and lives of relative ease have made you spiritually _____ and _____

... _____ (v. 5-6)

Amos 6:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ ... who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

His message? Your worldliness and love of "the good life" has made your hearts _____ toward your own sin and the sin-induced plight of your people.

God's Judgements:

Amos 6:7-14 (ESV)

⁷ Therefore they shall now be **the first of those who go into exile**, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away." ⁸ The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is

*in it.”⁹ And if ten men remain in one house, **they shall die.**¹⁰ And when one’s relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” he shall say, “No”; and he shall say, “Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD.”¹¹ For behold, the LORD commands, and **the great house shall be struck down into fragments, and the little house into bits.**¹² Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—¹³ you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, “Have we not by our own strength captured Karnaim for ourselves?”¹⁴ “For behold, **I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel,**” declares the LORD, the God of hosts; “and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah.”*

_____ of exile
_____ and _____
_____ at the hands of another nation

Conclusion:

Again and again, God calls His people to “Seek me and live”, but they will not. The root sin that led to all other sins of rebellion was _____.

Pride manifests itself in ...

There is but one remedy: _____ repentance.

Next week: Vivid Judgment