

Amos: A People of Prayer and Justice

Core Group Discussion

July 1, 2018

Message Overview:

The prophets show us who God is and what He wants from His people. The truth about God's word, when we approach it humbly, is that it challenges us....all of us. Inevitably, God will open our eyes to things we have come to believe and live that are out of step with who He is and what His purposes are. Amos brought God's word to people and they were very angry because they felt he was incorrect in his estimation of who God is and his judgement of their beliefs and behavior. (They were so angry, in fact, that they killed him.) The truth was that Amos wasn't saying anything new about God, it's just that the people had, over time, come to think of God differently. Amos is as likely to offend our sensibilities about how we believe and live as he did the people in his day. There are parts of God that we might have forgotten about over the years, which Amos brings to light. May we be receptive to God's word brought to us through the prophet Amos.

Texts:

- Amos 5:18-24

Questions:

1. What aspects of the message stood out to you this morning?
2. The people in Amos' day felt very religious and were frustrated by Amos' critique of their lives. Time has proven Amos right and that they were wrong. What could they have done differently that might have helped them know in that time that Amos was speaking for God?
3. What can a person do to set ourselves up to really understand God?
4. How do you feel about the fact that the prophets, especially Amos, were as concerned about justice for the poor as they were the sexual morality of God's people? – Does this surprise you?
5. Why do you think God cares so much about people who are weak and poor?
6. How does knowing God's heart for weak and poor people effect the way we live as His people?