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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Amos

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CALL FOR RETURN GOES UNHEEDED

Amos 4:4-10

- I. The amazing goodness of God that calls man to Him.
 - A. He does it by tender mercy.
 - B. He does it with the use of satire.
 - C. He does it with obvious punishment.
 - D. But sadly "ye have not returned."
- II. Where do I stand relative to this ancient picture?
 - A. Do I rely on a formal religion without the beating of a sincere heart?
 1. Will I be saved by just doing the right thing without sincerity?
 2. Am I rejecting the obvious call of God to repentance?
 3. What does it take to get me home?
- III. In our Amos story we start with Satire, Amos 4:4-5.
 - A. "Come"
 1. Satirically summons Israel to calf worship.
 2. Ironically calls on them to break the law, exhibit zeal for idolatry.
 3. Imitate the letter with calf worship.
 4. Surely they will see idols are worthless to save them.
 5. Do we see the folly of substituting the false for God?
 6. He is attacking empty ritualism though you come to letter of law--to Bethel.
 7. Gilgal--circle of stones a part of memorial to Jericho's fall.

8. Can maintain the letter of the law but service still idolatrous.
9. Worship divorced from morality.
10. Self-will was their only rule--did exactly what they wanted to.

B. "Bring Sacrifice"

1. Destroyed spontaneous and made them compulsory.

Luke 22:19

2. Lessons to call:
 - a) Observe how Scriptures warn against the commandments of men.
 - b) Acts of self-will not meant to please God.
 - c) That which pleases God must be meant to please Him.
 - d) God wants no gift from sin stained hands.

Isa. 1:15

Ps. 66:18

C. Keep the letter

1. Bring sacrifice as one of 3 feasts: unleaven bread, harvest, ingathering.
2. Corrupt in worship but hands poluted.
3. Tithes 3 years.
 - a) Law required 1/10 every 3 years.
 - b) Increased their apostacy.

D. Sacrifice of Thanksgiving

1. Note no sin offering as they rest on forms and multiply them.
2. No consciousness of sin.
3. In absence of spirit, letter is made to do double duty.

4. Leven not allowed in any sacrifice by fire.

E. Can we see ourselves--O children of Israel?

1. Religion resulting from corrupt reasoning makes miserable men.(Scott)
2. We can mimic truth without attachment to it.
3. Compounded worship with sin.
4. Do we desire to conceal?
5. Whom are we pleasing--self or God?

IV. How did God feel about all this?(Amos 4:6-10)

A. He sent 5 wake-up calls.

1. Cleanness of teeth (famine).
2. Withheld rain.
3. Smitten with blasting & mildew.
4. Pestilence.
5. Slain with the Sword.

B. Results--"yet ye have not returned."

C. Look at these calamities.

1. Famine--clean teeth.
 - a) Nothing to eat--teeth not stained.
 - b) They met privilege with unappreciativeness, favor with disregard.
2. Drouth
 - a) Not accidental but special providence of God.
 - b) Rained on cities--not crops.
 - c) Operation of nature is power of God.
 - d) God does not enslave himself to his own laws.

- e) God puts his signature endorsing disciplinary works.
- f) Rain is at his disposal--he can put it on one field and not another.
- g) Wander--stagger like a drunk from weakness of thirst--tremble, unsteady, reeling of the exhausted from want of food and water.

3. Blast and mildew.

- a) Mildew can ruin an irrigated garden.
- b) Sun can blast it.

4. Pestilence

- a) All man's efforts in vain.
- b) Nothing escapes divine visitation.
- c) Locusts come.

5. War

- a) Young men left unburied.
- b) God seeks to reclaim but all fails.

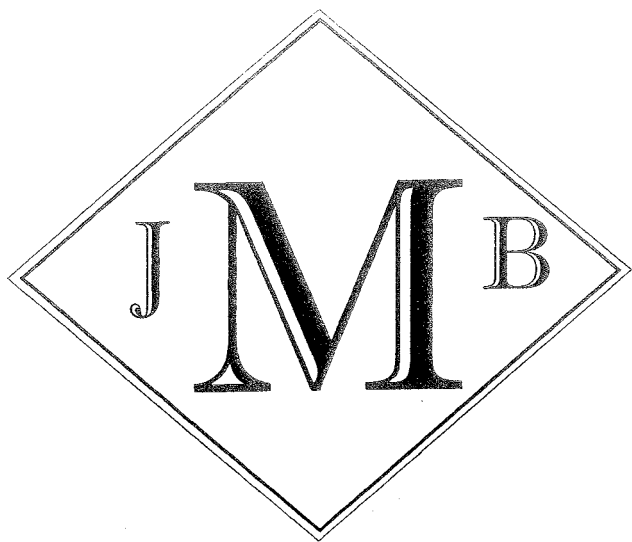
V. Sad Refrain--5X Ye have not returned.

- A. This was what God wanted.
- B. Saw no sign of amendments.
- C. Failed to heed warning.

Hosea 2:8

2:12

- D. God doesn't half forgive--man must not half repent. (Pusey)
- E. Let us remain free agents--will we repent or perish?



TODAY'S CHRISTIAN AND HIS MONEY

Amos 5:13-14

- I. From observation and posted figures I believe one of the most timely lessons is to speak to today's saint and his money.
 - A. I am a depression child.
 1. Dad, while ill, told me "if the bank calls, we do not have a house to live in."
 2. Locust Grove's contribution:
 - a) 130 people - 7 or 8 dollars.
 - b) Sister Thurmond "my quarter will always be there."
 - c) Three biggest givers - \$1.00 each.
 3. I worked for \$2.00 per day in the field.
 4. I married at \$1,440 per year.
 5. I preached and whole collection given me was \$8.00 and I would put in \$5.00.
 - B. Today:
 1. Minimum wage.
 2. Gas \$2.70 a gallon and we still drive.
 3. We build million dollar buildings.
 4. We endow Christian Universities with \$100,000 million.

5. Aren't we doing enough? (I was in a meat shop - 2 ribeyes and a brisket = \$75.00 one outing for one family!

C. I want to ask you: How much do you have left over?

II. Things to remember:

A. Work and remunerations are honorable.

Rom.12:11 "In diligence, not slothful."

1. Yet love of money can destroy us.

I Tim. 6:10

Mark 10:24

I Tim. 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich."

V-18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works."

V-19 "Laying up in store for themselves."

2. Yet God gives riches to some.
Solomon an example.

3. To hoard it is fatal.

Col. 3:5

4. Food and clothing an honorable pursuit.

Gen. 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Exo. 20:9 "Six days shalt thou labor."

5. Christ worked.

John 5:17

Mark 6:3

2 Thess. 3:10 "If any would not work,
neither should he eat."

B. Why do we work?

1. Read Parable Luke 19:16-19
2. One heard well done.
3. Gained by trading.
4. Yet some failed though still had hidden money.
 - a) Wicked servant.

Ecc. 9:10 "Whatsoever thy hand finds to do."

Titus 2:14 "In diligence, not slothful."

Ecc. 2:18-19 (READ)

III. We introduce the wrong alternate.

Amos 5:11-15 (READ)

A. There is a way not to accumulate.

V-11 "Trample upon the poor."

1. Take his wheat.
2. Build houses of stone (hewn).
3. Vineyard, but not drink.

B. Words that scare "For I Know."

1. Can hide from IRS, but not God.
2. Manifold are your transgressions.

C. Three evils cited.

1. Afflict the just.
2. Take a bribe

3. Turn aside the needy.
 - a) Enact what's profitable to us.
 - b) Via bribes, blind to justice.
 - c) Fail legitimate call of poor.
4. Remember

Heb. 4:13 "All things are naked."

D. Remember this:

1. We do not adequately tell our sisters in church how money is used.
2. They are tempted "since I do not know what's going on I won't support what I don't know."
3. We must remedy this!

E. Further recall other O.T. works.

Jer. 17:11 "As the partridge sitteth on eggs and hatcheth them not..."

17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things..."

Amos 5:14 "Seek good and not evil that ye may live..."

5:15 "Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment."

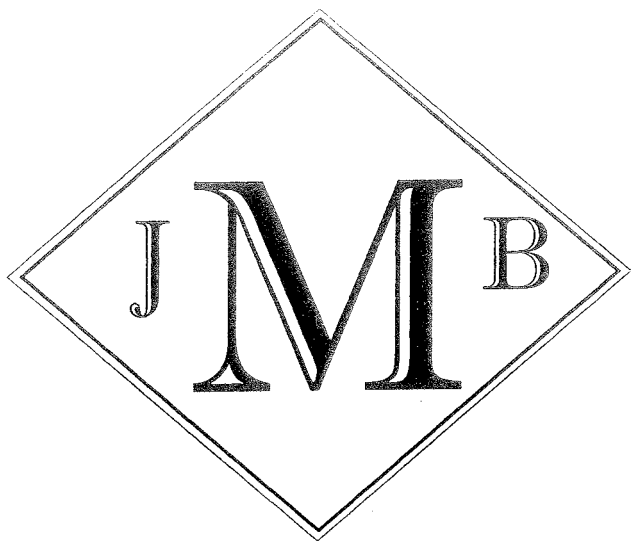
F. We must use the material benefit of our times to the glory of God.

1. What percentage do you give?
2. How does your giving to the Lord compare to your other usage of your money?

a) \$15.00 haircut.

b) \$40.00 beauty parlor.

Luke 12:15 "Take heed, and beware of
covetousness: for a man's life
consisteth not in the abundance
of the things which he
possesseth."



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A PH.D PERSON

Amos 5:10-15

I. All of my life I've respected and learned much from the educated folk.

A. Education means to draw out and the well-educated are more able to do it.

1. I have no seminary training.
2. I do not know Hebrew or Greek.
3. I recognize the scholarship of those who do.
4. Without their guidance I'd never understood some passages of Scriptures-- John 21:15-17, being one of them in just English language.

B. But I've also gloried in the unlettered Amos being one of them.

1. Livid is Tekoa.
2. Fired his bombs across the border into Israel.
3. Called himself one among "the herdsmen of Tekoa."
4. No prophet, but a dress of trees.

Amos 7:14

5. Cared for flocks of others--tenant farmer.
6. Humble laborer.
7. God does not just use landowners!
8. Told Israel she'd fall after existing 100 years.

Amos 7:7-13

9. Amaziah said Amos was treacherous.
10. He also took on Philistines,
Edomites and others.

II. Let's see one of his charges.

A. Amos 5:10-15

1. Read V-10 "They hate him that
reproves."
 - a) We want to be polite, call
correct.
 - b) We do not want to be confronted with oru wrong.
 - c) We can't stand the truth as men
speak uprightly.
2. Our neglect brings dire results.
 - a) "Trample upon the poor"--
earlier that's what most of us
were.
 - b) Rich in the church were
scarce.
 - c) One millionaire in Michigan
brother told me about Michigan
Christian College and "of
course I called on him. Ganus
in N.O. Benson met.
3. Dwelt in house of
to abandon.
4. Planted vineyards but won't drink
the wine thereof.

- a) We best use what we have--
give it or lose it.
- b) Applies to all brackets of
income.
- 5. Sins of the rich excused--improper
marriage we pass by.
- 6. Afflict the just, take bribes, turn
aside the needy.
 - a) Hard to find orphan girl that
needed Fanning help.
 - b) We've become a wealthy society
as few remember hunger.
- 7. The prudent keep silent in an evil
time.
 - a) Helpless feeling.
 - b) Have we rightfully gained?

Jer. 17:11

B. There is a call for righteousness.

V-14 "Seek good and not evil that ye may
live."

V-15 "Hate the evil and love the good,
establish justice."

V-15 "Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be
gracious unto."

- 1. Can we openly condemn the wrong?
- 2. What about scams that prey on old
folks? (Shoplifter story).
- 3. God will only bless what is right.

Ps. 119:127-128

C. I just read the ultimate gift.

1. Book appeals to proper things.
2. One of them Dreams.
3. Perhaps this misused:

Amos 5:23 "I will not hear the melody of the viols."

- a) Condemn the instruments.
- b) Foolish arguments hurt.

4. Hear a positive good.

V-24 "But let justice roll ldown like waters and righteousness."

5. I can be both just and righteous and so can you!

- a) Not a trifling effort but an avalanche of good things!
- b) Let it spread over all the church and that be our reputation.
- c) Such magnifies God!

D. Let's face the fact:

1. God wants us to be a holy people--sin condemns.
2. Secondly we cannot hide our conduct from God, (or the government). Uncle Sam sent me \$24.00 on an overpayment.
3. We can't compromise good and evil, so cannot alter God's way.

SHOPLIFTERS GET SMARTER

They're better organized and unloading hot goods online. Should they be prosecuted as felons?

By Jessica Silver-Greenberg

The inventory of Levi's jeans at Mervyns stores in the Los Angeles area was mysteriously shrinking last year, and not because of hot-rinse cycles. After setting up surveillance cameras, the retailer's loss-prevention department realized why. Organized gangs of thieves were swiping the pants from shelves, hustling them to waiting cars, and whisking them to a couple of homes in the San Fernando Valley. The hot jeans were then sold in L.A.'s garment district. In the end, 30 people were arrested for what Mervyns estimates was more than \$1 million in losses.

Shoplifting has gone big-time. Groups of thieves armed with store floorplans and foil-lined bags to evade security sensors are making off with vast quantities of merchandise. Selecting items from a ringleader's list—electronics, razor blades, and baby food are among favored items—a savvy “booster” can haul off \$5,000 to \$10,000 of goods in a single day, according to the FBI.

Such theft has grown steadily in recent years, merchants and law enforcement officials say. “We have witnessed a steady increase in organized retail crime,” says David Hill, a Montgomery County (Md.) police detective. “These groups operate with the training of a paramilitary.”

In response, retailers are lobbying to strengthen laws, which they say are insufficient to combat the crime. At an Oct. 25 hearing, NRF members urged



House subcommittee members to make organized shoplifting a federal felony.

The problem has also created a rift between brick-and-mortar merchants and online auction sites, which traditional vendors say have facilitated growth of the crime. “The Internet has allowed a wide distribution of stolen products, whereas before, the fencing of stolen goods was limited to pawnshops and local areas,” says Brad Brekke, vice-president for asset protection at Target.

In October, 2005, the chain uncovered a ring in Houston involving five people who sold stolen Target merchandise online. According to records

from the criminal investigation, the ring unloaded \$258,000 worth of goods, including electric razors, cordless phones, digital cameras, and shower heads. Crooks make more selling on the Web than they do out of the back of their cars, notes Maryland's Hill.

TOUGHER MEASURES

The National Retail Federation (NRF), whose members include Target, Wal-Mart, and Safeway, has been meeting

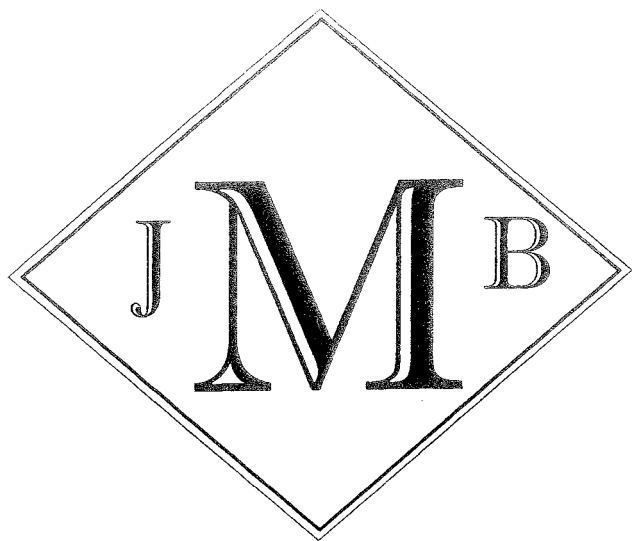
with Representative Robert C. Scott (D-Va.) to discuss ways to clamp down on e-fencing—for example, by making vendors disclose serial numbers of items they are selling. Web auctioneers object. “We see this as an overreach by big, established retailers,” says Hani Durzy, a spokesman for eBay.

Online issues aside, retailers say better laws are needed to fight the problem. “Organized retail crime is low-risk and high-profit,” says Joseph LaRocca, vice-president for loss prevention at the NRF. One of the group's objectives is to press for stiffer penalties. Gang

members are often careful to steal little enough in a single strike to avoid serious charges if they are caught. “At any one time, these individuals won't have a huge amount of goods, but they will be making thousands of trips. So if they are caught, what should be a higher charge is bumped down to a petty larceny, which is the legal equivalent of a traffic ticket,” says L.A. Police Detective Dan Nee. Local law enforcers are also handicapped because these thieves often operate across state lines.

Mervyns, meantime, reports it has ramped up its efforts to thwart the rings. Says Mike Kennan, director of loss prevention at the Hayward (Calif.)-based chain: “The magnitude of these thefts would amaze a lot of people.” | BWI

Retailers want auction sites to be more alert—and make vendors disclose serial numbers, for instance, of goods for sale



THREE POINTS & A REMNANT

Amos 5:15

I. Who Weaving the Bible constantly demands 3 attitudes.

Becheler Farmer
milk

A. Hate the evil

1. Whatever is wrong must be rejected

2. Entirely - neither sought, loved, done

3. I'm unalterably against all that is wrong

5 words - Miss is your mother home

4. Weakest link will forge mighty chain

5. I make deliberate conscious choice.

(Not like Noah story - lost ark - where is it?
Graffe, lion, elephant didn't know Termite
"I can't believe I ate the whole thing")

B. Love the Good.

1. I choose this - not by accident - but
actual doing right knowing its right.

(This in L.R. I ate bk. lost c Mr Gates, Rogers Ark,
official c Daisy Rifle. How it got its name "I asked.
6. 12 mtg. metal windmills, employee made an
air gun, showed it to Pres & he said "It's a daisy."
Glad he didn't its a daisy. Gave as prize for buying
wind mill. But seeds (?) gave order for 4000 - unheard

of-order (one) thus made company.)

2. Mere avoidance of wrong would be colorless

3. God's law not just restrictions - its also positive commands.

4. Love the good - that's the Bible's appeal from start to finish. ^{Dead well} wake up citizens

5. Way of virtue steep & rugged path

6. Voice of God authoritative - demands obedience w/o hesitation or calculations

7. Our claim to be c God supported by commensurate life.

C. Establish judgement in the gate

1. Fair - Picked chicken - do they have to

2. Upright ^{take their clothes off every nite}

3. Best insured in fear of God.

D. Remnant

1. Only a few? A wedding out implied?

2. Doom conditional - can change it

3. Might be too late to avoid disaster but try

4. God never forgets his covenant

5. Whatever ~~the~~ promises will be
& its not controlled by size of
men.

6. V-14 Seek God & not evil that
ye may live & so the Lord, the God
of hosts, shall be with you.

John 17:3 This is life eternal.

Ar. L. C. Chapel 3-2-72

Cummins College Chapel, Lebanon, 3-22-72

Owens Ridge College, 4-6-72, Paragonah, Ariz.

MOTHER—Home

Though a mother stays home and keeps her house clean, it is still not a home unless she created the right spirit in the house. It is the atmosphere created primarily by the mother than makes a home worthwhile.

—J R BROKHOFF, *The Speaker's Special Occasion Book* (Droke House, \$5)

ORIGIN—'Snake in the Grass'

A snake is thought to be a cunning creature which stealthily approaches its prey, and then attacks without warn-

G E M B O X

There's a house-to-house
salesman who says he owes his
success to five words: "Miss, is
your Mother in?"

Quote

A salesman stopped at the home of a bachelor farmer just at milking time. "I'll be through in a minute" the farmer told the stranger.

He finished his milking, lifted the pail to his mouth and drank deeply, poured the remaining milk on the ground, rinsed out the pail, and hung it up on a hook in the barn.

"Now," he said, turning to the salesman, "the milking's done, supper's over, and the dishes are washed. What do you want?"

7 A little girl from a crowded slum tenement was sent to the country to spend the summer on a farm. On her first day there, she sat on the back steps and watched the farmer's wife pluck a chicken just before supper. She looked on in wonderment for some time and then curiosity outweighed her shyness and she asked, "Do you have to take their clothes off every night?"

PATRIOTISM

During W W I, a member of the State Council of Defense in an Illinois city received a stack of patriotic posters with the request to display them all over town. He enlisted the help of an over-enthusiastic teenager and instructed him: "Put these up all over the city wherever you find a dead wall." Later in the day, the official was taken to a nearby cemetery where he read on the tomb of one of the city's deceased founding fathers: Wake up, citizen! Your country needs you!" —TAL D BONHAM, Pastor, "wake up, citizen!" *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*

X
The leading lady and the leading man had been carrying on a feud. One night she paid a stage hand to wire up a dead phone that appeared on a desk in one of the play's scenes.

The leading man was in the middle of the scene's big speech—one that always won audience approval—when the phone rang. Surprised, he hesitated. Then he continued as though nothing had happened. But the phone rang again.

This shook him up pretty badly, but he managed to stumble along with more of his lines until the phone rang the third time. Then the leading lady, who had been thoroughly enjoying his discomfiture, said sweetly, "Why don't you answer the phone?"

There was no choice. With a stricken look, he walked across and picked up the receiver. After mumbling a few words into the phone, he suddenly brightened and said, "Just a moment, please." He then turned to the leading lady, "It's for you, dear," he said graciously.

For Safety

The California state department of food and agriculture issued a memo instructing state employees on "safety when working after normal duty hours." Among other things, the memo read: "Travel between floors by elevator only in buildings having elevators."

Fresno, Calif. W.S.

Impossible

A ditchdigger thought he would better himself by getting a job as a deep-sea diver. He was handed a pick and told he would have to use it digging at the bottom of the sea.

With diving suit adjusted, he was lowered into the water. After a few minutes the men at the top received an urgent signal to haul him up.

"What's wrong?" he was asked, as his diving helmet was removed.

"I'm quitting this job," he declared. "How can you expect a man to handle a pick when he can't spit on his hands?"

Joplin, Mo. Sam

...e teacher,
...her class
...all over the
...Scotland.
...ody tell me what
...assies are?" she
...Johnny. I see your
...up. Tell the class "
...s," said Johnny, rising
...feet, "are boys and las-
...re dogs."
...irbury, Neb.

E.C.

Time for Caution

In a rural county the judge sat on both criminal and civil cases. This particular case was a civil suit involving a claim for considerable damages.

The lawyer for the plaintiff had argued fervently and long. In desperation he said, "Judge, I've seen you sentence men to hang on less evidence than that."

"I know, Jim," said His Honor, "but I tell you right now, when it comes to money, you've got to be careful."

Muscatine, Iowa. Dan

Real Estate?

Point of View

A kind motorist stopped beside a ragged-looking hitchhiker who was wearing only one shoe.

"Lost a shoe, eh?" the motorist asked sympathetically.

"Nope," came the reply. "Found one."

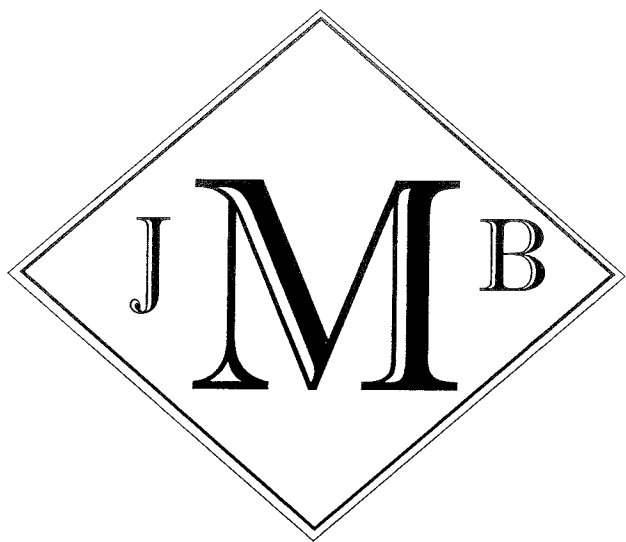
Parker, Colo. Hele

front end of nose.
stood the product will be sent
Washington for final assembly.
Sedalia, Mo. R.M.

Your Turn

An author, monopolizing the conversation with talk of his accomplishments, was suddenly conscience-stricken.

"A thousand pardons," he said to a fellow guest. "Here I am talking of nobody but myself. Let's talk about you. do you think of my new
Lincoln, Neb.



MAKING THINGS GO RIGHT
WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Amos 5:10-16

- I. I love the title given me; it implies
 - A. There are things that are wrong.
 - B. There definitely is the right--the lines are not blurred.
 - C. There is the joy of hope to right the wrong.
 - D. With the help of God I have the opportunity to make it so.
- II. There is very little trouble in finding things that are wrong.
 - A. Families in trouble.
 - B. Church growth not vigorous.
 - C. Attitude toward truth is questionable.
 - D. Worship and doctrine are corrupted.
 - E. Ignorance of who we are and how to give reason for being.
 - F. Morals in speech and practice are lowered.
 - G. Loyalty to God and duty is questionable.
 - H. Your list may vary from the big Seven I've listed.
 - I. But there--unlike floods, storms, accidents & calamities, there is not one listed that cannot be corrected--there is hope!
 1. Like the herdsman, Amos of Teokea, I want to challenge you.
 2. I want you encouraged to see the remnant in Joseph.

III. We Go To The Writings of Amos

A. The herdsman

1. Ordinary man with an ordinary profession.
2. Small town guy who lobbied his shells over Judah to hit Israel.
3. Quoted 2X in NT.

Acts 7:42-43 *Stephen*

Acts 15:16-17 *-James*

4. He begins by asking for attention to his sermon.

Amos 5:1

B. He starts with the Wrongs & specifically names them.

1. It can apply to us as we candidly examine ourselves.
2. Yet with the citation of wrongs he'll now and then inject hope!

C. Look at the Wrongs

1. They hate the rebuker at the gate.
 - a) At the gate they transacted business.
 - b) They did not want to hear an upright magistrate.
 - c) Anyone who spoke for the plaintiff was ignored.
 - d) They harrass the poor for even bringing his case to court.
 - e) Rebuker --reprover is the man who would recognize the injustice and point it out.
 - f) They would have contempt for him who brought the truth.

- g) Count his word as a strange thing.
 - h) Just could not bear to hear the word of God--there was a "famine in the land!"
 - i) They did not want righteous laws nor anyone who reminded them of this fact.
2. They trod upon the poor.
- a) Walked all over them and got rich in so doing.
 - b) They afflict the righteous.
 - c) They take bribes to blind their eyes to justice.
 - d) They refuse to give the poor their day in court.
 - e) Do we corrupt the doctrine for selfish gain?
3. Took from him his burden of wheat.
- a) Smallest amount of grain the tenant had they snatched away--even his subsistence.
 - b) Imposed heavy rent on him.
4. Moving to verse 12 they afflict the just.
- a) Aim at dishonest business practices.
 - b) Leaders interested in maintaining their own positions--not injustice.

Isa. 29:21 "They make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought."

- c) Abhorred what was complete and entirely in accord with truth and fact.

5. They take a bribe.
 - a) Money, bribe (means ransom) changes hands & the rich win the decision.
 - b) Money talks.
6. Turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.
 - a) Poor precious in God's sight.
 - b) They took advantage of their condition.
7. Prudent keep silence in an evil time.
 - a) Wise men consider it useless to complain.
 - b) Men afraid they'd lose what they've got.
 - c) What's the use of talking attitude.
 - d) It was an evil time.

Rebukes
 Trade
 Burden of what
 Afflict Just
 Bribes
 Turn Poor from
 Silence

(1) Just consider the 7 things mentioned.

(2) These injustices go against the very nature of God.

D. Any way you want to cut it, evil was having a winning day.

1. Built houses of hewn stone.
 - a) Evidence of security and permanency.
 - b) Sign of wealth.
 - c) Even the altar of God could not have this!

Exo. 20:25 "And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone; for if thou lift thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it."

2. Planted vineyards of desire (literally) as they wanted the best of everything.

IV. Now God Speaks

- A. You will not dwell in hewn house.
- B. You won't drink wine of your pleasant vineyards.
- C. Because "I know your manifold transgressions & your mighty sins."
 1. We hide nothing from Him.
 2. Not just a few crimes but too numerous to count.
 3. Sins mighty because done presumptuously.
 4. God will call us to account.

V. There Is a Way to Right the Wrongs.

- A. Seek Good & Not Evil *DAISY RITHE*
 1. Seek = being devoted to, being concerned about.
 2. Doom is conditional--you can change it.
 3. Why seek evil knowing what it brings?
 4. Seek good & God, you will find it.
 5. Follow after what pleases God.

Prov. 11:27 "He that diligently seeketh good, procureth favor; but he that seeketh mischief it shall come unto him."

6. To have God and good it must be sought.
7. We must swim against the stream of national disgrace.
8. What ruins you avoid.

B. Live!

1. Men are not to come to the Lord with uncertainty--but definitely.
2. Results will be life.
3. Our claim to be with God must have a life commensurate with the claim.

C. Lord God of Host

1. God not in sanctuaries or holy places but as one seeks justice.
2. People used a saying to encourage each other--"the God of hosts be with you."
3. Our God is one of power.

D. Hate evil--Love Good

1. Abhor anything that stands in the way of bringing justice.
2. Can't boast of the presence of God with us unless we hate evil and love the good.
3. Men who hate to be corrected by his word seek their own ruin.
4. Establish judgement in the gate--
abhor anything that stands in the way of justice.

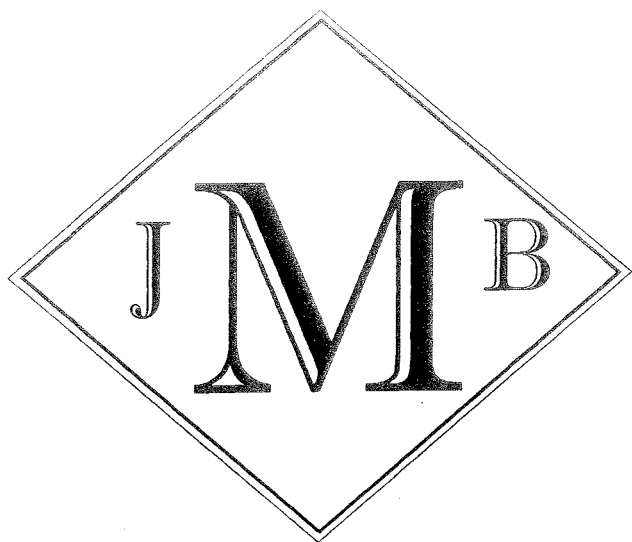
E. Join the Remnant of Joseph.

1. Yes, there is hope.
2. Might be too late to avert wide disaster but try to.
3. The present course certain of ruin.
4. Believe in a brighter tomorrow.

Story to use:

I ate breakfast with Mr. Gates from Rogers, AR. He was an official with Daisy Rifle. I asked "How did it get its name?" They formerly manufactured metal windmills. One of their workmen made an air rifle. The President saw it and said "It's a daisy." What if he'd said it's a doozie. They gave one as a prize for whoever bought a windmill. Then a salesman got an order--unheard of--for 4000 rifles. That made the company.

West End - 3/26/97



THE PROVEN ROUTE TO TROUBLE

Amos 6

- I. In Matthew 23, Jesus gives eight woes.
 - A. Woe defined.
 1. Alas
 2. Sorrow, regret, anguish, deplore.
 3. Calamity, grief, heartache.
 - B. Whatever it is that brings these curses upon me, I don't want it.
 - C. The Holy Spirit in Amos 6 does not leave you wondering, but he nails down the specific things that bring woes to man.
 1. Let's see them.
 2. Let's avoid them.
 3. Amos 6 does not list all the regrettable things of life, but surely enough of them for me to be specifically warned.
- II. Things that beget woes.
 - A. Those who are at ease in Zion amid challenging times (V-1).
 1. Like the monkeys who see no evil, hear no evil, acknowledge no evil.
 2. So busy in luxuriant indulgences do not see the evils of their day and are quiet.

B. Those who complacently trust in proven failures (V-1), (V-2).

1. Mountain of Samaria.
2. Chief of the nations .
3. Calneh on Tigris--fell to Assyria, 794 B.C.
4. Hamath, the great, same fate .
5. Gath--chief city of Philistines, Uzziah took it .
6. Rely on famous names .
7. Are you any better than they?

C. Postpone consideration of day of reckoning (V-3).

1. Put away evil day.
2. No change, things go on as they are.

Ps. 94:20

Ecc. 3:12-13

Matt. 24:48

3. Live recklessly--nothing will change
4. Refuse to consider judgment, reckoning.

D. Give into luxury, gluttony, pleasure (V-4).

1. Lie on beds of ivory, adorned with ivory.
2. President--Martha's Vineyard - \$34,000 per week.
3. Stretch on couches--first example of reclining at eating.

4. Eat lambs out of flock and calves out of stall.
 - a) Choicest meats, selfishly used.
 - b) Moffatt--fresh lamb and fatted veal.
5. Chant to sound of viol, invent instruments, mimic David (lyle or flute).
 - a) Think they are as good as he was.
 - b) Adam Clark on music.
 - c) Insolvent.
 - d) Mimic temple music and make fun of it.
 - e) strum away lit., improvise.
6. Drink wine in bowls.
 - a) No longer a glass or cups, but larger amounts.
 - b) Drunkenness destroys all--stay away from it.
 - c) Banquetting and merri-making all time.
7. Anoint with luxurious perfumes and ointments.
 - a) Not for health, but luxury.
 - b) Pride and prosperity damn.
8. No grieved for the affliction of Joseph.
 - a) Sit on top of his cistern prison and eat lunch.

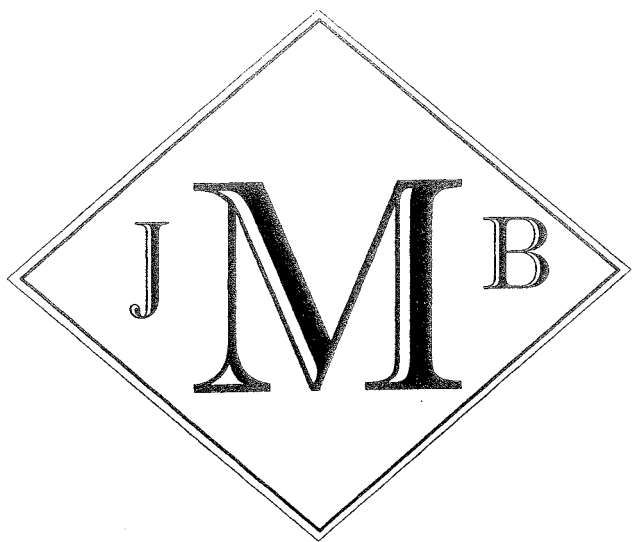
- b) No feeling for poor and distressed.
 - c) Are we at ease when brother is in distress?
9. Inevitable results--shirt sleeves to shirt levees. First to go captive--banquet folks removed.
- a) This is how God felt about it--read V-8.
 - b) Ten men, one house, all die.
 - c) Uncle, nearest of kin, cremate them.
 - d) Can't carry on conversation--can't mention name of God.
 - e) Great house and little house fall.
 - f) Breaches--big holes, clefts--little holes.
 - g) No time for funeral.
 - h) No boasting of kinship with God.
 - i) First in sin; first in punishment.
 - j) In British museum saw monument.
10. To show pointlessness of their actions he uses two agricultural examples: Horses don't run on rocks, nor plow there with oxen.
- a) Judgment into gall.
Righteousness into hemlock.
 - b) You with horns have no strength.

11. God conferred his blessings and now nothing to show for it.

Ps. 87:2

48:3

12. We will be called to account for our living.



IT MUST NOT BE SEASONAL!

Amos 6:1-8

I. One of my favorite prophets is Amos.

A. His name means burden.

1. And he had one.
2. He was south of Israel's Kingdom and from Tekoa he looped missiles across the line to land in Israel. I was so happy to see his town and image his work.
3. 12 miles south of Jerusalem, 6 miles south of Bethlehem he lived.
4. A herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees (Amos 1:1; 14-15). Type of fruit tree like a fig, but sweet, watery, not very valuable.
5. Humble.
6. Made no pretension to be a teacher or leader. "I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son." He was not "one of the sons of the prophets."
7. Loved the truth, hated iniquity.
8. Spirit of the Lord moved him to speak.

Amos 3:8 "The Lord Jehovah hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"

1 Cor. 9:16 "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

B. He told the good and the sad.

1. Made some conspire against him--asked to leave.
2. Told downfall of Amaziah's family.
3. Took courage.
4. Sold the righteous for silver, needy for pair of shoes.
5. Read Amos 2:6-8; 8:4-6.

C. But I want to read Amos 6:1-8.

1. Ease in Zion--do not sense danger.
2. Ezekiel 16:48-50.
3. Revelations 3:14-22.
4. Luke 12:13-21.
5. Amos 9:10 "The evil shall not overtake nor meet us."
6. Amos 3:10
7. Beds of ivory, stretch on couches, eat lambs of flock, calves of stall.
8. Sing idle songs--invent--See card by Adam Clark.
9. Wine in bowls, anoint with oils.
10. Not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

D. Work of the Central church.

1. Are we seasonal with our help to poor?
2. Hungry only at Thanksgiving.

Adam Clark says:

"I believe that David was not authorized by the Lord to introduce that multitude of musical instruments into the divine worship of which we read; and I am satisfied that his conduct in this respect is most solemnly reprimanded by this prophet; and I further believe that the use of such instruments of music in the Christian church is without the sanction and against the will of God; that that they are subversive of the spirit of true devotion and that they are sinful. If there was a woe to them who invented instruments of music, as did David under the law, is there no woe, no curse to them who invent them, and introduce them into the worship of God in the Christian church? I am an old man, and an old minister, and I here declare that I never knew them productive

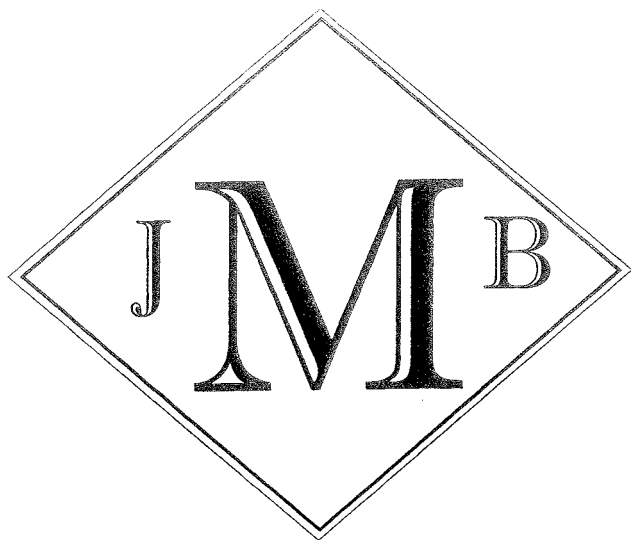
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of any good in the worship of God; and I have reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity. The late venerable and most eminent divine, the Rev. John Wesley, who was a lover of music, and an eloquent poet, when asked his opinion of instruments of music introduced into the chapels of the Methodist said, in his terse and powerful manner, 'I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither HEARD or SEEN.' I say the same, though I think the expense of purchase had better be spared."

E.A. ELAM

Elam's Notes on Bible School Lessons - 1922

pg.76



DO WE HAVE IT TOO EASY?

Amos 6:1-7, 11-14

- I. That our country gives luxuries unheard of remains.
 - A. At Trimble dinner--"others cannot believe the way we Americans live."
 1. Instant gratification we have.
 2. What drugeries confront us--any?
 3. No indoor bathrooms--T.P.--Sears catalog.
 4. Instant gas logs.
 5. Tore down stove woodshed.
 6. Do I feel for Calcutta children who live with the cholera?
 - B. There has ever been: haves vs. have nots--see text.
 1. Parade cities of plenty (V-2).
 2. How do we picture Las Vegas?
 3. Do we feel we earn it and always have luxuries?
 4. No evil day ever comes.
 - C. Examples
 1. Lie upon beds of ivory.
 2. Stretch selves on couches.
 3. East lambs and calves out of stall.
 4. Sing songs of creaton.
 5. Invent instruments--how expensive our instruments!
 6. Wine in bowls.
 7. Chief oils anoint.
 8. But not grieved for Joseph.

9. Warned it will pass.
10. How does our spending on self compare with on the Lord?

II. Move to Amos 6:11-14

A. Jehovah can end it.

B. Idioms

1. Horses (unshod) on rocks.
2. Plow there with oxen?
3. Justice to gall; righteousness to wormwood.

C. Do we rejoice in a thing of naught--
where is our value?

D. Pride in our horns of strength.

Prov. 16:18	Pride before fall.
Prov. 29:23	Pride brings us loss.
Prov. 15:25	Root up house of pride.
Ps. 29:23	God preserves.

E. Let's self-examine.

1. Don't be lulled to self.
2. Don't disdain wariness.
3. Produce something lasting.

