

Pastor Dave Glesne

June 19, 2005

Pursuing Spiritual Authenticity
“Amos: How to Measure a Life”
 Amos 5:21-24

Amos probably lived and ministered around **750 B.C.**

- He is a **farmer**.
- God tells him to go up to the **Northern Kingdom** to preach.
- The Northern Kingdom is enjoying great **success** and **prosperity**.

Chapter 1: God’s judgment is going to fall on Israel’s enemy **Syria**.
 God’s judgment is coming on the **Philistines**.
 God’s judgment is coming on Israel’s **most hated enemies**.

Chapter 2: God’s judgment is coming on the **Southern Kingdom**.
 v. 6 God pronounces judgment on **Israel**, the Northern Kingdom.

Why? Because of the way they are treating **the poor**.

In Deuteronomy 24 God told his people what He expected his **community** to look like.

The Israelites were to look out for three groups:

- **Aliens**
- **The fatherless**
- **The widows**

God is the **protector** of these weak ones.

Whoever neglects them, neglects **Him**

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:17)

“A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”
 (Psalms 68:5)

God’s people are to have a **heart** like God’s **heart**.

“If any one of you has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has not pity on them, how can the love of God be in you?” (I John 3:17)

“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...Lord, when did we not serve you?...Whatever you did not do for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you didn’t do for me.” (Matt. 25:41-45)

Chapter 3: God talks about the lack of **justice** and **compassion** in the hearts of his people.

“I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished.”
 (3:15)

“You trample on the poor and force them to give you grain. You deprive the poor of justice in the courts.” (5:11)

The deeper problem: the people make no **connection** between their treatment of the poor and their **relationship** with God.

Key verse: *“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”* (5:24)

Chapter 7: A **plumb line** standard is **absolute**.

A note of **hope** in Amos (Amos 5:4-5)

READING PLAN:

Complete Track

Monday - Jeremiah 47-48; Psalm 115
 Tuesday - Jeremiah 49-50; Psalm 116
 Wednesday - Jeremiah 51-52; Psalm 117
 Thursday - Lamentations 1-3; Psalm 118
 Friday - Lamentations 4-5; Ezekiel 1
 Weekend - Ezekiel 2-8

Fast Track

1st Reading - Amos 1-3; Psalm 82
 2nd Reading - Amos 4-6; Psalm 140
 3rd Reading - Amos 7-9; Psalm 146