

## “Turn to God” - Amos 4:1-13

Ask - “How many warnings should a parent give before disciplining their children? Discuss.”

Background - Amos spoke rather directly and sarcastically at times. He told it like it was and didn't make any effort to soften his words. His language wasn't politically correct and has drawn criticism from some intellectuals who are more concerned about tone than content. Would you rather have a gruff truth or a poetic lie?

“The Wealthy Women of Samaria” - Amos 4:1-3

(v1) What does Amos call the wealthy women of Samaria? Why does he use this unflattering and derogatory name?

(v2) Ironically, how will these women be like fattened cattle? Why is God's holiness a factor in this outcome?

(v3) How will these women be led out when Samaria falls to the Assyrians? What does “Harmon” mean (*research in advance*)?

AMOS SPEAKS OUT DIRECTLY AGAINST THE WEALTHY, SNOBBISH WOMEN OF SAMARIA. HE FORESEES THEIR CAPTIVITY.

“The Sinful Behavior of Israel” - Amos 4:4-5

(v4) What type of sin were the Israelites committing at both Bethel and Gilgal (*answer: idolatry and sacrifices to pagan gods*)? How regularly was this going on?

(v5) How does Amos sarcastically describe Israel's offerings to these false gods? What is the problem with “leavened” bread or making one's giving known?

AMOS CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR THEIR IDOLATRY, SINFUL SACRIFICES, AND VIRTUE SIGNALING.

“You Have Not Returned To Me” - Amos 4:6-13

(v6-8) What judgments did God send against Israel? Did they cause the people to return to God?

(v9-10) What additional judgments did God send against Israel? Did these cause the people to return to God?

(v11) What other judgment did God send against Israel? Despite these harsh judgments, how is His mercy revealed in this verse also? Did the people return

to God?

(v12-13) Because of Israel's repeated refusal to return to the LORD, what does Amos warn them to do? How does he describe God Almighty?

AMOS TELLS ISRAEL TO PREPARE TO MEET THE LORD BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENT IS IMMINENT. THEY HAVE REFUSED TO REPENT FOR LONG ENOUGH AND GOD HAS DETERMINED TO ACT.

Application - Amos was not anti-women or anti-Israel... he was anti-sin. God spoke through him to condemn the idolatrous and spiritually gluttonous behavior of Samaria. Yet, we see that God employed several tactics in an effort to have them repent. His desire was for their salvation and well-being, but they repeatedly refused to return to Him. As a result, judgment was declared. Are you prepared to meet God?