

Hearing What God Has to Say (*Amos*)

June 16, 2024

Amaziah was not interested in preaching the whole Word of God. Amaziah was preaching mostly a “feel-good” gospel message that he thought would draw more people into his “church.”

Not a famine of bread. Not a famine of water. But a famine of hearing. The time will come when people will no longer hear what God has to say.

The image of God roaring like a lion did not fit with the image of God that the people wanted. Nor does it fit with our image of God today. Not unless he is, of course, roaring at somebody else.

God is our friend. He is our Father. He is our creator. He is our Savior. All valid images, but not the only images we should have of God. He is also a roaring lion, demanding attention.

It is possible to be where the Word of God is proclaimed, where the Word of God is available, but the people are far from hearing it.

Many people attend church on a regular basis. They hear the Word of God being preached and proclaimed. But they have become hardened to what God has to say.

A famine of hearing the Word of God has gripped the soul and it no longer has an impact.

If you do not heed the Word of God, it is only a matter of time before you will no longer hear the Word of God.

Do we think we can treat God with benign neglect and it simply will not matter? “Heed the Word of the Lord,” Amos says. If you do not, the time will come when you will no longer hear it.

Amos reminds them of their privileged position. Then he reiterates something that privileged people rarely want to hear. Special privilege always involves added responsibility.

Their privilege does not exempt them from the judgement of God. Rather, because they have been particularly privileged, they are going to be held uniquely responsible.

Israel believed that their material blessing was a sure sign of God’s favor. On the outside they are living prosperous, sophisticated, leisurely lives. But underneath their hearts were far from God.

God is looking for is a people who have a heart for God, people who will stand for what God stands for.

Without commitment to God’s law, they had no basis for standards of conduct.

Our culture continues to move away from God’s Word and away from any sense of a Biblical moral code. It is no longer God who defines, for us, standards of behavior and conduct. We now define that for ourselves.

The message of Amos is that God has spoken. The question we should be asking is not so much, “Are we listening,” but rather, “Can we even hear him anymore?”

Notes:
