**We Need A Man Like Amos Today**

**Reading – Amos 6:1-6**

**Fighting An Uphill Battle *(Amos 5:11) Therefore, because you tread down the poor And take grain taxes from him, Though you have built houses of hewn stone, Yet you shall not dwell in them; You have planted pleasant vineyards, But you shall not drink wine from them.***

The Bottom Line: ***(Amos 5:21-23) "I hate, I despise your feast days, And I do not savor your sacred assemblies. {22} Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, Nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. {23} Take away from Me the noise of your songs, For I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.***

His Message Compare to Jesus’ message [Matthew 15:9] --- (Amos 5:18-20) Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. {19} It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! {20} Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?

**Strong Words For Those At Ease.**   ***(Amos 4) Hear this word, you cows of Bashan,… Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!" {2} The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: "Behold, the days shall come upon you When He will take you away with fishhooks, And your posterity with fishhooks.***

On insincere worship… ***{11} "I overthrew some of you, As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorra, And you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.***

Chastisement into repentance had no effect… ***{6} "Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities. And lack of bread in all your places; Yet you have not returned to Me," {7} "I also withheld rain from you, When there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, And where it did not rain the part withered… Yet you have not returned to Me," {9} "I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, Your vineyards, Your fig trees, And your olive trees, The locust devoured them; Yet you have not returned to Me," {10} "I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; Your young men I killed with a sword, I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.***

**How Do We Compare? *(Amos 3:15) I will destroy the winter house along with the summer house; The houses of ivory shall perish, And the great houses shall have an end," Says the LORD… (Amos 2:6) Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away its punishment, Because they sell the righteous for silver, And the poor for a pair of sandals.***

***(Matthew 6:19-21) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; {20} "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. {21} "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

Problem in preaching the truth. ***(Amos 7:12-15) Then Amaziah said to Amos: "Go, you seer! Flee to the land of Judah. There eat bread, And there prophesy. {13} But never again prophesy at Bethel, For it is the king's sanctuary, And it is the royal residence." {14} Then Amos answered, and said to Amaziah: "I was no prophet, Nor was I a son of a prophet, But I was a sheep breeder And a tender of sycamore fruit. {15} Then the LORD took me as I followed the flock, And the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to My people Israel.'***

Problem of Insincere Worship & Problem of Indifference. ***(Hebrews 3:12-13) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; {13} but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.***

Problem of Religious Apostasy. ***(2 Timothy 4:3-4) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

If we neglect God's truth, we will fall into the same trap as the Israelites. ***(Amos 5:24) But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.***