

Amos — Plumb Line

AMOS 1-2, 4-8

Who am I when all is well? When things are as I believe they should be. When I am comfortable and well fed and my needs, and more, are met each day?

The book of Amos is one where the nation of Israel is brought face to face with all that is actually *not* well—not well for the Kingdom—and their own hands have become responsible for injustice whether by their own means or lack of choosing to care. Whether by choice or naivety, they have turned justice to bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

It's so easy to point fingers at others. To the people in our history. Those across the world. Across the country, the state, the city, the church aisle. But who am I, truly, when the mouthpiece of God is speaking to me?

We want to seek God and live, but what does that mean for us? We profess to care for what God cares for. We ask him to break our hearts for what breaks his. But, we're comfortable in our naivety. Things are—good.

God cares about injustice, and it matters. Perhaps we should too, and maybe that begins with listening to those who challenge us to have eyes that see and ears that hear.

So here is a song that has brought voice to this message of Amos—given me words when I've lacked the right ones to wrestle with injustice, hypocrisy, and unrighteousness in the world I see around me. If you haven't heard this song before, I'd give it a listen.

*I hate all your show and pretense
The hypocrisy of your praise
The hypocrisy of your festivals
I hate all your show*

*Away with your noisy worship
Away with your noisy hymns
I stop up my ears when you're singing 'em
I hate all your show*

*Instead let there be a flood of justice
An endless procession of righteous living, living
Instead let there be a flood of justice
Instead of a show
I hate all your show*

*Your eyes are closed when you're praying
You sing right along with the band
You shine up your shoes for services
There's blood on your hands*

*Instead let there be a flood of justice
An endless procession of righteous living, living
Instead let there be a flood of justice
Instead of a show
I hate all your show*

*Quit fooling around
Give love to the ones who can't love at all
Give hope to the ones who got no hope at all
Stand up for the ones who can't stand at all, all*

*You turned your back on the homeless
And the ones that don't fit in your plan
Quit playing religion games
There's blood on your hands*

—JON FOREMAN, "INSTEAD OF A SHOW"

Let's be a people who choose to look and to listen and to care.

A people who seek God, and live.

PRAYER

*O God, may we seek You and live.
May we always remember You,
never turning justice into bitterness
or casting righteousness to the ground.
But bringing justice.
Acting in righteousness.
And living as Your Kingdom of priests.
Caring for those in chaos—
the foreigner, the orphan, the widow—
Both in our neighborhoods and across the world.*

Amen

THE FOUR PILLARS

BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the story of God's people.

Here are some applications for this episode echoing the ideas of the four pillars:



TEXT

What stands out to you from the Text and images used to refer to this prophet? What could you meditate over or memorize?



COMMUNITY

How does your community choose to care? What can you learn from one another before jumping into the books of the prophets? Share stories and ideas—and brainstorm!



DISCIPLESHIP

Who are you bringing alongside you to see through you that God cares about all of humankind and creation? That God cares about injustice? How might you do better?



WRESTLING

What are you wrestling with in this book? The historical significance and timeline? The image of a plumb line? Is it Source A or Source B or a bit of both?



Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.



BEMA SESSION 2



MEDITATION & PRAYER

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases that we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*True success is developing intimacy with God. In Session 1, we encountered the idea of “Creating Space for God” in our lives. We believe that **if we do our part of creating that space, God will fill it** as He desires. You’re already doing this as you dive into the Text and jump into a place to discuss. God will meet you in these places! Look for places the Holy Spirit can do work in and through you as you go about your everyday life.*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

***We believe that young adults are shaping the future of this world.** Jesus modeled a ministry of discipling young adults, and that approach has and will work. If you are a college student who is listening, we want this material to be directly helpful to your pursuits. If you are not a college student, we want to challenge you to come alongside one and work together.*

SACRED STATION THEOLOGY OF WORK

*This isn’t only for church or Bible study; this is about what we do every day. How we do our job and how it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something God says is central to our presence in the world. Justice is very much something God cares about. Does our physical work (our 9–5 job) bring shalom or chaos? Does it exploit creation? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief to others. **The work we do every day is sacred and matters!***