



RESPOND GUIDE

Grow beyond Sunday.

Summary

Pastor Riley delivered a powerful message from the book of Amos, focusing on God's warnings of judgment as invitations to mercy. Amos, a simple shepherd and fig farmer from Tekoa, was called by God to travel to Israel with a message of impending judgment. The sermon emphasized that God's warnings are like lightning before thunder - giving us time to respond and escape judgment through faith in Jesus Christ. Amos proclaimed judgment first on surrounding pagan nations, then on Judah, and finally on Israel itself for exploiting the vulnerable, corrupting worship, and rejecting God's truth. The pastor challenged the congregation not to dismiss these warnings as meant for others, but to examine their own hearts and lives. The central message was about present faithfulness changing future judgment - both for ourselves and those around us. Just as Amos had to wound figs to help them reach maturity, God sometimes wounds us to help us become who He intends us to be. The sermon called believers to reject lies that render them ineffective and embrace the truth of God's grace and mercy, living on mission to reach others with the gospel. The pastor emphasized that our faithful response to God's warnings today can rewrite the stories of judgment for people in our communities and even to the ends of the earth.

Key Verses

- Amos 1:1-2
- Amos 2:4-5
- Amos 2:6-8
- Amos 2:9-12
- Amos 7:14-15

Questions

- How does understanding that God's warnings are like 'lightning before thunder' change your perspective on difficult circumstances or convictions in your life?
- Amos was just a shepherd and fig farmer when God called him to deliver a difficult message. What does this teach us about how God can use ordinary people for His purposes?
- The sermon mentioned that Israel likely said 'amen' to judgment on surrounding nations but didn't want to hear about their own need for repentance. How can we guard against this same attitude in our own lives?
- What are some 'lies' that commonly render Christians ineffective in living on mission, and how can we replace them with God's truth?
- How does the image of Amos wounding figs to help them mature relate to how God works in our lives through difficult circumstances?
- The pastor emphasized that 'present faithfulness can change future judgment' for those around us. Can you think of a specific example of how someone's faithfulness impacted your spiritual journey?
- What does it look like practically to 'live on mission' in your everyday life - at work, in your neighborhood, or with your family?
- How can we ensure that our corporate worship on Sundays translates into authentic Christian living Monday through Saturday?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific 'lie' you've been believing that has hindered your effectiveness in living for Christ (such as 'I'm not qualified,' 'I don't have time,' or 'my past disqualifies me'). Replace that lie with God's truth from Scripture, and take one concrete step to live on mission in your

community - whether that's having a spiritual conversation with a neighbor, serving someone in need, or boldly sharing your faith with someone God has placed in your life.

Key Takeaways

- God's warnings of judgment are actually invitations to mercy and grace through faith in Jesus Christ
- We must not dismiss God's messages as meant for others, but examine our own hearts and respond personally
- Present faithfulness can change future judgment for both ourselves and those around us
- God uses ordinary people like Amos (shepherds and fig farmers) to accomplish His extraordinary purposes
- Authentic worship must translate into authentic Christian living throughout the week, not just on Sundays

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for speaking to us today through Your servant Amos. We acknowledge that we are often like Israel - quick to see the faults of others while being blind to our own need for repentance. Forgive us for the times we have exploited rather than served, gone through the motions of worship without authentic heart change, and rejected Your truth for comfortable lies. Help us to be people of present faithfulness who impact the future judgment of those around us. Give us courage like Amos to step out of our comfort zones and go wherever You send us with Your message of grace and mercy. May our lives this week reflect that we have truly been in Your presence. Transform us from mere hearers of Your Word into doers who live on mission for Your glory. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.