



# RESPOND GUIDE

Grow beyond Sunday.

## Summary

In this sermon from the book of Amos, Pastor explores how God called an ordinary shepherd and fig farmer to deliver a difficult message to Israel. Amos received visions of judgment - locusts, fire, and a plumb line - revealing that God's people had strayed from righteousness. The message emphasizes that God's warnings of judgment are actually invitations to mercy, as He desires hearts more than destruction. The pastor draws parallels between the scars on sequoia trees from fires that enable growth and God's discipline that shapes us. A key theme is the urgency of sharing the gospel while mercy is still extended, as there will come a day when judgment falls without mercy - fulfilled in Christ's crucifixion so mercy can continue until His return.

## Key Verses

- Amos 7:1-3
- Amos 7:7-9
- Amos 8:11-12
- Amos 9:11-15
- Acts 15:16-17

# Questions

- What does it mean that God's warnings of judgment are actually invitations to mercy? How have you experienced this in your own life?
- Amos was just an ordinary shepherd and fig farmer when God called him. How does this encourage you about how God can use ordinary people?
- The pastor mentioned that Amaziah, the priest, was supposed to be God's spokesperson but wasn't listening to the Lord. What are some things that can prevent us from truly hearing God's voice?
- How does the imagery of the plumb line (Amos 7:7-9) apply to our lives today? What areas of your life might not be 'aligned' with God's standards?
- The sermon discussed the importance of 'passing the baton' to the next generation. What practical ways can we invest in and disciple younger believers?
- God said He would send 'a famine of hearing the words of the Lord' (Amos 8:11). What are some signs that our culture might be experiencing this kind of spiritual famine?
- The pastor used the analogy of emergency sirens on Williams Drive. What 'sirens' is God using in your life to get your attention?
- How does understanding that Jesus absorbed God's wrath on the cross motivate us to share the gospel while mercy is still being extended?

## Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who needs to hear about Jesus and take a practical step to share the gospel with them. This could be through a conversation, an invitation to church, or simply living out your faith in a way that opens the door for spiritual discussion. Remember that God wants to use ordinary people like us to be His messengers.

## Key Takeaways

- God's warnings of judgment are invitations to mercy - He desires our hearts more than our destruction
- God calls ordinary people to be His messengers when religious leaders fail to listen and speak His truth

- There is coming a day when judgment will fall without mercy, but until then we must urgently share the gospel
- God uses discipline and difficult circumstances (like fire scars on sequoia trees) to shape us and help us grow
- We have a responsibility to 'pass the baton' and invest in the next generation of believers

## Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for speaking to us through Your Word today. Help us to be people who truly listen when You speak and respond with obedience. Give us courage to open our mouths and share the good news of Jesus with those around us while mercy is still being extended. Help us to see the scars and difficulties in our lives as opportunities for growth and maturity. May we be faithful to pass the baton of faith to the next generation. Use us as Your messengers in this world that desperately needs to hear about Your love and salvation. In Jesus' name, Amen.