

## Seedling Group Questions for the week of October 14 – Lectionary 28B

The sermon for October 14 can be found at [www.saidanotherway.org](http://www.saidanotherway.org)

### Questions for opening up

What kinds of snacks are *essentials* for a road trip? Who packs them?

If you were to win the lottery how do you think your life would change? Why?

### Read Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

*A note for interpretation: the terms “house of Joseph” and “remnant of Joseph” should be read as synonyms for “ancient Israel” or “God’s people.” The gate was the key public arena of the ancient city scene. It was there where negotiations for compassion and fairness were worked out and people discussed the welfare of the city.*

What picture of God does the prophet Amos paint in this passage? Does this align with your typical view of God? Why or why not?

How does Amos’ prophecy describe or define the categories of “good” and “evil”? What actions, practices, or attitudes are associated with those terms, based on this passage? Who, if anyone, speaks in similar terms these days?

### Read Mark 10:17-31

If you were the man running up to Jesus on the road, what do you would you have *expected* Jesus to say to the question, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

The belief that God rewards righteous living with worldly wealth is called the “prosperity gospel,” and vestiges of it can be seen in the disciples’ reactions to Jesus’ remarks about wealth and the kingdom of God. Where have you encountered elements of the prosperity gospel?

### Putting things together

What things (experiences, events, books, etc.) typically cause people reflect on their relationship to money and affluence? What about you?

Do you think Jesus calls everyone to sell all their possessions, leave their home and follow him? Why or why not? Have you ever known anyone who has done something like that? What was/is your reaction to them?

Pastor Phillip says, “The fact of the matter is that the more buffered someone is by their affluence, social status, education, or race, the more difficult it will become for that person to look for hope and salvation in something else outside themselves, including in God’s kingdom.” In what ways have you found this to be true (or not)?

### Making it personal

What are some of the unexpected gifts you have gained by following Christ? How do you steward those gifts?

### **Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

<sup>6</sup>Seek the Lord and live,  
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,  
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,  
and bring righteousness to the ground!

<sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves\* in the gate,  
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

*\*reprimands*

<sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor  
and take from them levies of grain,  
you have built houses of hewn stone,  
but you shall not live in them;  
you have planted pleasant vineyards,  
but you shall not drink their wine.

<sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions,  
and how great are your sins—  
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,  
and push aside the needy in the gate.

<sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;  
for it is an evil time.

<sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil,  
that you may live;  
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,  
just as you have said.

<sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good,  
and establish justice in the gate;  
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,  
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

### **Mark 10:17-31**

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of

God.”<sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,<sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.<sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”