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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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God is Not Fooled Amos 5:14-15, 18-27

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches that regardless how much man may try, **God is Not Fooled**. The study's aim is to show that although we are not to keep the ceremonial law, we are nevertheless called to righteous living. The study's application is to live a consistent Christian life daily to honor the Lord God and not incur His discipline.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The son was confident that he could get away with what was forbidden. The secret joy was suddenly interrupted by his mother's stern command: "Stop jumping on the furniture!" How did she know? She was not in the room, and she could not see what he was doing. The fun-loving boy decided to turn it into a game. The object was for him to undertake an action in one room, and his mother, in a different room, was to try to guess what he was doing. He was impressed: time after time she guessed correctly. Similar accounts have given rise to the statement that "a mother has eyes in the back of her head," or so it seems to children who are apprehended while being happily disobedient. Mothers do not need to see jam on faces or catch hands in cookie jars to be aware of wrongdoing. Even so, fooling a parent is possible, and confessions in family gatherings many years later make for good entertainment. To attempt to fool God, however, is another matter. It makes no difference whether the inappropriate action is undertaken in the dark, on vacation, or when no one seems to be watching—because God always is. The nation of Israel was infamous for the times throughout its history when the covenant was renewed and then broken—again and again. God knew, and from his heavenly courts he sent messages through his prophets to tell the covenant people as much. Perhaps they thought God did not know or did not really care. But he did.

The year was about 760 BC when God sent Amos from Judah to the northern nation of Israel to proclaim a warning. The previous study showed how Amos pronounced God's judgment on nation after nation, and then he came to the eighth nation: Israel. Amos reminded the people there that God had chosen them from among all the nations of the earth (Amos 3:2), but their actions did not demonstrate gratitude for this divine favor. In the seven centuries since the time of Moses, Israel had violated often its commitment to God. The pattern that emerged was for God to discipline his people because he loved them, and for the nation to repent when the situation became critical (see the book of Judges for examples). Although God punished, he would always forgive, wouldn't he? Amos's mission included challenging the distorted views of the people in that regard. They regularly performed the religious rituals that were prescribed in their covenant with God, but they also worshipped other gods. This violated the first of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:3). In addition, the high standards of morality that the Lord had established gave way to gross immorality. The people's arrogance about their favored status caused virtue to vanish from private and public lives. The opening words of the Charles Dickens classic A Tale of Two Cities accurately describe the situation in Israel: It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way. What the people saw as "the best of times" God saw as "the worst of times." He was making his final appeal to a favored nation. Historical hindsight tells us that captivity at the hands of the Assyrians was less than 40 years away by the time Amos preached.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Instead of looking at hypocrites, look at Jesus

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Lord, help me make my witness clear,
And labor faithfully, So friends and neighbors turn to Christ
Through what they hear from me. —Anon.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.
(Gal 2:13 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Aug 11, 2003)

Series: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

UNIT: Amos Rails Against Injustices

NEXT WEEK

God Abhors Selfishness

(Amos 6:4-8, 11-14)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

GOD DESIRES GODLINESS (AMOS 5:14-15)

Seek good and not evil (14)

Seek good by being an example (Titus 2:7)

Seeking good is profitable for everyone (Titus 3:8)

Seeking good as part of being productive in our daily life (Titus 3:14)

Seeking good causes others to glorify God (1 Peter 2:12)

Seeking good is sharing with others (Heb 13:16)

Establish justice (15)

Justice that comes from righteous wisdom (Ps 37:30)

Justice that comes from the plans of the righteous (Prov 12:5)

Justice that comes from doing right (Prov 21:3)

Justice that comes from God to His chosen ones (Luke 18:7)

GOD WARNS OF COMING JUDGMENT (AMOS 5:18-20)

Judgment at the day of the Lord (18)

The Day of the Lord is a day of tumult and terror for those who are not prepared (Isaiah 22:5)

On the day of the Lord all His holy people will be glorified (2 Thess 1:10)

The Day of the Lord is near (Zeph. 1:7-9)

The Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thes. 5:2)

Study and apply word so that we will persevere until the day of the Lord (Phil 2:16)

Judgment that is not expected (19)

Not expected by scoffers (2 Peter 3:3-4)

Not expected by the religious rulers (Jer 5:12)

Not expected by false teachers (2 Thess 2:1-3)

Judgment of the darkness of sin (20)

A judgment that will bring everything to light (1 Cor 4:5)

A judgment that judges men's secrets (Rom 2:16)

A judgment of the nations (Matt 25:31-33)

A judgment that judges what was done in the body (2 Cor 5:10)

GOD IS NOT FOOLED BY FALSE WORSHIP (AMOS 5:21-27)

False gatherings (21)

False gatherings where the people do not listen and are against God (Lev 26:27-31)

False gatherings that trample in God's House (Isa 1:12)

False gatherings that seek followers in evil ways (Matt 23:15-16)

False offerings (22)

False offerings from the wicked (Prov 21:27)

False offerings from people who carry out ungodly scheme (Jer 6:19-20)

False offerings from the disobedient (Hos 8:12-13)

False offerings from the sinful (Mal 2:11-12)

False music and singing (23)

False music and singing from the self-indulgent (Amos 6:5-7)

False music and singing from those who mistreat the poor and needy (Amos 8:3-4)

False music and singing from those who practice cheating and seeking dishonest gain (Amos 8:6-10)

False righteousness (24-25)

Righteousness that is false because it did not include mercy (Hos 6:6)

Righteousness that is false because of it being cast to the ground (Amos 5:7)

Righteousness that is false because of trying to establish it on our own (Rom 10:3)

False idolatry (26)

False idolatry is exchanging God's truth for a lie (Rom 1:25)

False idolatry must be avoided (1 Cor 10:14)

False idolatry is participating with demons (1 Cor 10:18-22)

Punishment of false worship (27)

Worship with rules of man (Matt 15:9)

Worship that is not done in spirit and truth (John 4:21-24)

Worship by those that do not keep a tight rein on the tongue (James 1:26)

Worship of idols (Ps 97:7)