

June 21, 2015



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

God Abhors Selfishness

Amos 6:4-8, 11-14

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches about why **God Abhors Selfishness**. The **study's aim** is to show that if God was this displeased with the selfishness of Israel, He will be angry at neglect and corruption today. The **study's application** is to make sure that we, as individuals and as a local congregation, are not putting ourselves in the place of judgment as Israel did.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

Amos traveled from Judah to Israel to deliver his oracles from God during what has been called Israel's "Indian Summer." That expression is used to describe a weather phenomenon in the fall of the year—a period of pleasant warmth and sunshine after the first frost. When Amos preached, Israel was enjoying a period of peace that it had not experienced for many years. There was no oppressing nation at that time, and the nations of Israel and Judah were not at war with each other. This situation allowed Israel to expand its boundaries to such an extent that they approached what they had been in the days of Kings David and Solomon. Jonah had prophesied that this would happen (see 2 Kings 14:25); it is assumed his prophecy was made in the early days of King Jeroboam II, who reigned about 793-753 BC. The 790-739 BC reign of King Azariah (also called Uzziah) of Judah overlapped much of Jeroboam's reign in the north. The descriptions for Judah's parallel prosperity are given in 2 Chronicles 26:1-15. Outwardly, the reigns of these two kings were characterized by success in military expansion, economic recovery, and sustained peace. But spiritual apostasy had been the norm in the northern nation of Israel for decades, beginning with King Jeroboam I, who created rival centers of worship shortly after Solomon's death in 930 BC (1 Kings 12:25-33). Jeroboam II is assessed as one who "did evil in the eyes of the Lord and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit" (2 Kings 14:24). To the south, King Uzziah became proud in his accomplishments, and he acted corruptly by attempting to function as a priest. His penalty was to be stricken with leprosy for the rest of his life (2 Chronicles 26:16-21). Then Amos came to Israel from Judah. His first "woe oracle" was the study for last week's lesson. A second such oracle begins at Amos 6:1, addressed to the arrogant of Zion (Jerusalem, capital of Judah) and Samaria (capital of Israel). The leaders of these two nations were challenged to tour areas to the north and south; in so doing, they should conclude that their own nations were no better off than those they visited (6:2). But those leaders will continue in their blindness to coming judgment (6:3a) as they oppress the vulnerable (6:3b). Peace, prosperity, and progress—those factors are the background when Amos came from Judah to preach in Israel. He was ready to ridicule the attempts of the wealthy to find happiness and fulfillment by excesses of sinful indulgences and mistreatment of the poor.

The word selfish occurs only eight times in the New International Version. The concept is also present, however, in words such as greedy, ill-gotten, etc. Foundational to all these is the concept of covetousness, the concern of the Tenth Commandment as given in Exodus 20:17; the idea of selfishness is dominant when one covets what belongs to another. Someone proposed recently that selfishness is at the root of all sin. It means putting self ahead of God and all that he has commanded his people to do or not do. There is some validity to that observation, especially when it is combined with the affirmation in Colossians 3:5 that greed is idolatry. God hates selfishness, and selfishness can manifest itself in many ways. The world may use other terms to disguise it, but in the end it is still sin.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Selfish ambition is a terrible trait that can manifest itself in an ugly passion for personal recognition.

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
True greatness does not come to those Who strive for worldly fame; It comes instead to those who choose To serve in Jesus' name. —D. De Haan

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh, says the Lord. "But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go.

(Jer 45:5 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Mar 25, 2002)

Series: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

UNIT: Amos Rails Against Injustices

NEXT WEEK

God Will Not Delay Justice
(Amos 8:1-6, 9-10)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

SELFISHNESS EXPRESSED THROUGH SELF-INDULGENCE (AMOS 6:4-6)

Self-Indulgent in pleasures (4)

Pleasures that lead to being choked and immature (Luke 8:14)

Pleasures that can be taken away at any moment (Luke 12:19-20)

Pleasures that are meaningless and vain (Eccl 2:10-11)

Self-Indulgent in music (5)

Music that mocks (Job 30:9)

Music that rebukes (Eccl 7:5)

Music that is rejected by God (Amos 5:23)

Self-Indulgent in possessions (6)

Possessions that can be squandered (Luke 15:11-15)

Possessions that lead to greed (Luke 12:13-16)

Possessions that can never satisfy (Eccl 5:10-12)

REBUKE OF SELFISHNESS (AMOS 6:7-8)

Selfishness leads to being captivated (7)

Captivated by deceptive philosophies (Col 2:8)

Captivated by Satan (2 Tim 2:25-26)

Captivated by sin (Acts 8:23)

Selfishness leads to God's wrath (8)

God's wrath on those who reject Jesus (John 3:36)

God's wrath against all godlessness and wickedness (Rom 1:18)

God's wrath against unrepentant hearts (Rom 2:5)

God's wrath against the manifestations of the earthly sinful nature (Col 3:5-6)

EXTENT AND PUNISHMENT OF SELFISHNESS (AMOS 6:11-14)

Breakup of home (11)

Sometimes our greatest enemies are within our own homes (Matt 10:36)

A home divided cannot stand (Matt 12:25)

Family can betray, only God never forsakes (Jer 12:6)

Putting one's confidence in anyone, including family, other than God is a mistake (Mic 7:4-6)

False self-confidence (12-13)

False self-confidence causes blindness to one's own sin (Ps 36:1-3)

False self-confidence places one in a hopeless state (Prov 26:12)

False self-confidence will always fail (Matt 26:33-36)

False self-confidence disregards God's Will (James 4:13-17)

Being oppressed (14)

Oppressed by God's anger and punishment (Ps 106:40-43)

Oppressed to humble us (Ps 107:39)

Oppressed by an ungodly leadership (2 Chron 16:7-10)

Oppressed by our own people (Isa 59:12-14)