

AMOS: THE MESSAGE

Scripture: Amos 1-6

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse:

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Although Israel’s neighbors were very wicked and had done terrible things for which they would be judged, Israel had had much more opportunity to do what was right and therefore they, too, would be judged because they cared only for their own comforts and not the things God was concerned about.

To Realize—although the lives of non-believers may be more visibly wicked and worthy of judgment, everyone who knows the right thing to do and doesn’t do it, is also in danger at God’s judgment.

To Respond by—living according to what they know is right and of concern to God, not just for their own comfort.

Setting up the Story:

Tell about when I taught at a correctional institute once a week: those girls knew they had done things wrong. They were thought of as “bad kids.”

Next year: taught in a Christian school: behaviors were much better. They seemed to be “good kids.” But there is one thing I couldn’t see: what was going on in their hearts.

When Amos went to Israel, he met a lot of people that seemed like “good people.” But he had a very serious message for them. Today we are going to look at that message. And we start with a very interesting phrase. See if you can find it in the following verses: (assign verses with phrase “for three transgressions and for four” to several students and have them read.)

That is an interesting expression. What does that mean?

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Israel’s Neighbors are Under Judgment
 - A. Damascus
 - B. Philistia
 - C. Tyre
 - D. Edom
 - E. Ammon
 - F. Moab
 - G. Judah

As you tell the story:

Mark on the map as you read the different countries.

What does that expression mean?

Use illustration of the overflowing cup: judgment was filling up—three or four meant they had had more than enough opportunities! Like “Four strikes, you’re out.” Actually, the phrase is “Three strikes, you’re out.” What would four

- II. Israel is Under Judgment
 - A. They care about their own comfort
 - B. They don't care about what God cares about
 - C. They have religious actions without a righteous life

strikes mean? They had been given more than their opportunities to repent and turn.

Concluding the Story:

Why was Israel judged so severely when they didn't do some of the same awful things as the nations around them had done? Amos 3:2

There are two very sobering verses that tell us about God's coming judgment and I would like us to read them:

II Corinthians 5:10

I Corinthians 3:13