

I. Indulge - Amos 4:1-3

1. Women of Samaria (**verse 1**)

-engaged in personal prosperity while others hurt

A. Called “cows”

B. Women who oppress the poor

C. These are women who are oppressing the poor when they have so much - affluent by running over others

D. Bring us some drinks

Rea -this comment implies their husbands were complicit

2. God’s judgement begins in **verse 2**

A. You will be taken away with fish-hooks

1) carried away in boats

2) carried away in pots used to store fish

3) dragged away by ropes

4) caught like fish

5) barbed cattle prods

6) like butchered cattle hanging on hooks

Rea B. Go out the breaches in the wall (**verse 3**) -holes in the wall

-then, obviously the wall has been “breached”

Rea C. Why indict the women? - why not the leadership?

3. Go to Bethel and sin (**verse 4**)

-bring our sacrifices... and sin

-brought tithes every three days

Rea -their worship (itself) had become sin

4. Thank offering and freewill offering (**verse 5**)

-boast about them

Rea 5. The issue of offerings has many great points to ponder

-brag about them??

-don’t bring them at all?? - after all it really doesn’t mean “tithe”

-so, there is religious involvement to the point of fanaticism but God knows the difference between sincere worship and what is not

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. So - you can sin even though you...

-come faithfully?

-give generously?

-how?

2. Obviously the women were leading the pack??

3. Discuss the dangers of affluence

II. Refuse - Amos 4:6-11

1. Israel has been unfaithful - so here is what God says (**verse 6**)

A. I will give you empty stomachs

-a nation-wide famine

Rea -during a famine, they will not be concerned about “drinks” but about bread

- 2. I will withhold rain (**verse 7**)
 - so that the people stagger from town to town looking for water (**verse 8**)
- Rea -an agricultural society feels this one deeply
- 3. I struck your fields but you did not return to me (**verse 9**)
- Rea -note that “I” did it - not an accident or just a bad year
- 4. Next, I sent plagues (**verse 10**)
 - I killed your young men with the sword
 - I filled your noses with the stench of death - corpses in battle
- 5. I overthrew some of you like Sodom and Gomorrah (**verse 11**)
 - like a stick in the fire - yet you did not return to me
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. These things were intended to turn them back to God, but they did not
 - 2. Some people will not see any calamity as the “hand of God” - why do you think that is?
 - 3. Note (again) the personal nature of this “I” did this
 - 4. Discuss the idea of “bad things” as being a judgment of God

III. Prepare - Amos 4:12-13

- 1. Therefore prepare to meet your God (**verse 12**)
 - because they are unwilling to turn and repent - they will meet God
- Rea -so, meeting God comes after God has repeatedly tried to get them to turn back
- 2. The God who made mountains and creates winds - the God who knows thoughts and lives in the heights (**verse 13**)
- 3. His name “The Lord God Almighty”
- Rea 4. It is appointed of a man once to die and after that to meet his judgment - Hebrews 9:27
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. Discuss this type of judgment has disappeared from the local church - why?
 - 2. God holds accountable
 - the affluent women
 - their husbands
 - those who don’t see their afflictions as sent from God to turn them back
 - 3. Worse than all these judgments is the presence of Almighty God