



Notes for Adult discussion groups at
On-Line@9 Worship Service
30 September 2007

CARE-LESS OR CARE-FULL?

Amos was a prophet who came to the people of Israel with a message from God, some 760 years before Jesus was born. It was a time of prosperity, religious piety and apparent security. However, the opening words of the book are “The Lord roars from Mount Zion.” The roar of God is God’s anger at Israel’s attitude towards him. God had given them a beautiful, fruitful land to look after, but Amos saw that prosperity was limited to the wealthy, and that it fed on injustice and oppression of the poor. Religious observance was insincere, and, although the leaders felt secure, the country was being threatened with invasion.

Amos 6 v 1a, 4-7

“How terrible it will be for you that have such an easy life in Zion and for you that feel safe in Samaria - you great men of this great nation Israel, you to whom the people go for help! How terrible it will be for you that stretch out on your luxurious couches, feasting on veal and lamb! You like to compose songs, as David did, and play them on harps. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest perfumes, but you do not mourn over the ruin of Israel. So you will be the first to go into exile. Your feasts and banquets will come to an end.”

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Notes and Questions

1. How were these people acting?
Feasting, drinking, looking after themselves - whilst ignoring the poor, wasting resources and ignoring the threat to the country from invaders.
2. What do you think their main problem was?
It was actually that they ignored God. They had forgotten who had given them all the good things, and they were ungrateful (like the teenager in the sketch). They had moved away from God and become Care-less (“couldn’t care less!”)
3. What is Amos asking them to do instead?
To focus on God again - to put God at the centre of their lives and actions.
4. What might God be saying to us through Amos?
Being God-centred makes us Care-full (full of caring). We will take better care of this world and other people when we see that they are created and cared for by God; as we care for them we worship God with our whole lives - e.g. care for people, broken relationships: right use of possessions, wealth, talents, the environment.

Focus for Prayer

Hold something fragile in your hands to represent the things that you want to care for - perhaps things that are broken in some way.

Bring those things before God - remember that our world and our lives are precious to him.

Because we care for them, we pray about them.

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