

ADVENTURES IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 | Hebrews 3:12-19 | Mark 10:17-22

The _____ of crisis

Jesus and the man

What must I _____?

What _____ I do?

What's _____

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

I focused heavily on the Gospel reading this week, but I would, for a moment, like to return to Amos and the crisis there. Amos 5 is a hard chapter to read – indeed, most of Amos is – because there is a strong sense of You Must Change Your Life. This is not working. Read Amos 5.

Reflect:

Amos starts his message by highlighting the problems external to the people of God, but his central message lands heavily on those who would call themselves the people of God. What happens when the problem is revealed and nothing is done? If you go back and read all of Amos, how does the problem get worse?

In Amos 4, the complaint is that people, despite God's warnings and invitations, have failed to return to Him, and Him alone, as the source of all life. Part of the symptoms of this are the continued oppression of others and injustice. How does that dynamic work in our world today?

Respond:

"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them... but let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5:21-22, 24

Remember:

"Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.'" Mark 10:21