

PREACHING CURRICULUM

A Proper Posture toward Sin

Amos 7:1-9:15

"O Lord God, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Amos 7:1-9. In this passage Amos is shown three visions warning of impending judgment against Israel. In each of these three visions, what is the threatened punishment? What is Amos' reaction to the warning, and how does the Lord respond? Why does God seem to change his mind in response to Amos' entreaty?

Read Amos 7:10-17. Why did Amaziah the priest tell Amos to leave the country? What was it about Amos' message that troubled him? How did Amos respond to Amaziah's intimidation? What might have been the consequences for Amos' refusal to listen?

Read Amos 8:1-6. What is the significance of the basket of summer fruit? What does the fruit symbolize, and how is it connected with the situation in Amos' day? What significant sin issue is God concerned about in these verses?

Read Amos 9:11-15. What hope does God offer his people? Why is it significant that this hope is being held out to a people who have ruined themselves by their sin?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

If someone were to ask you to give a definition of "sin", how would you respond? If that same person were then to ask you, "Why is sin such a big deal?" what would you say?

If sin is as destructive as the Bible says it is, why are we so often drawn to it? In our day and age, why are the words "sin" and "sinful" so often associated with pleasure and self-indulgence? How might these prevailing cultural attitudes influence our own attitudes and beliefs about sin?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What are some common ways in which sin is rationalized, softened, excused, or explained away? Might some of these habits and attitudes be present in your own life? If so, how can these faulty ways of thinking be corrected?

Once we have developed a robust and accurate understanding of sin and its consequences from Scripture, what do we do when we are aware of our own sinfulness before God?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How does a biblical understanding of sin lead us into a deeper appreciation for God's love and grace to us in Jesus Christ? What effect might this have on your attitude and outlook on life this week?