

Going Through the Motions

Amos 5:1-17 / September 22, 2024

Lament: Disaster is coming!

¹Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you: ²“Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up.” ³This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Israel: “Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left.”

Warning: Your only hope is to seek the Lord!

⁴This is what the LORD says to Israel: “Seek me and live; ⁵do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.” ⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

Accusation: You’re not living a lifestyle that reflects true worship!

⁷There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

Hymn of Praise: Worship the Lord with reverence!

⁸He who made the Pleiades and Orion, who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land –

the LORD is his name.

⁹With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin.

Accusation: You’re not living a lifestyle that reflects true worship!

¹⁰There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth. ¹¹You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. ¹³Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.

Warning: Your only hope is to seek the Lord!

¹⁴Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. ¹⁵Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Lament: Disaster is coming!

¹⁶Therefore this is what the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, says: “There will be wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish in every public square. The farmers will be summoned to weep and the mourners to wail. ¹⁷There will be wailing in all the vineyards, for I will pass through your midst,” says the LORD.

Incomplete worship:

- When I offer the Lord _____, but not my _____
- When I am simply _____

Today's major lesson about true worship:

Worship begins with a _____ for the Lord, and as I turn from my sin and seek him, he transforms my heart from the inside out.