



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: Seek God

Sermon Title: "God is Worthy, Seek Him" (Amos 5:4-5,14-15)

Connection to Amos 5:4-15

God is worthy of our quest for Him. We may expect God in His Grace to do everything for us. Our response to a Holy God is to seek His truth and ways. We must seek. He rewards our seeking with His presence and blessings.

Introduction/Opening

Imagine being lost in the mountains. We know others are searching for us so we do all we can to make sure they can find us. If we hear a helicopter overhead, we might find a clearing where we can more easily be seen. We may even create some type of sign or flag to bring attention to ourselves. We are working to be found just as much as our rescuers are in searching for us. Most of us would not try to make more challenging for the rescuers to find us.

The Bible tells us God is searching for the lost. We are tempted to leave all the effort in His court. We must join the work of God by seeking Him as He draws us in His grace. The Lord initiated the process of salvation through sending Jesus, and we have the privilege of responding to Him through our seeking. Jesus is worthy of our attention and pursuit. He expects to turn our thoughts to Him as we seek to discover His truth and faithfulness. When we do, He is faithful to let us find Him. He welcomes us with open arms and does not conceal Himself.

Outline

1. Jesus is Worthy of our Quest
 - a. Jesus is magnificent and worthy of our searching. He is God's only Son and the only way to eternal life (John 3:16,14:6). The Scriptures reveal a precise way to heaven and that only comes through faith in Jesus.
 - b. Amos commanded the rebellious tribes of Israel to seek God and His ways (5:4,14). They were seeking idols and listened to false prophets. They were pursuing objects of death. When they sought God and His ways, they were promised life.
 - c. We become like the objects we seek. If we seek idols we become as worthless as they are; deaf, blind, and immobile (Jer. 2:5). If we listen to worthless words or false prophets, we become worthless like the deceptive words we have heeded (Jer. 7:8).
 - d. The worth of the true and living God never diminishes. When we invest our lives in that which is worthy, we discover we have treasures in heaven and are never disappointed (Isa. 49:3).

2. God Seeks Us First

- a. Motivated by love; God comes after us. We are like the lost sheep, missing coin, and prodigal son (Luke 15: 4,8,13). We belong to Him, and He passionately seeks us.
- b. Jesus spoke of this drawing or seeking (John 6:44). The conviction of sin that causes us to fear judgement is the love of God prompting us to accept His offer of grace in Jesus. This grasp of lostness is not within us. It is made available to us by the loving, seeking God.
- c. Jacob had cheated his brother, Esau, and the angry sibling intended to kill Jacob at the earliest opportunity. Jacob's mother, Rebekah, told Jacob to run for his life to her relative's home in Haran (Gen. 27:41-43). On the first night of his escape, Jacob spent the night at Bethel. There God, in seeking Jacob, revealed Himself in a dream. Jacob was on the run, he was not seeking God, but God sought and found him.
- d. Similarly, God seeks us. He seeks us, and then we love Him. We love Him because He first loved us (1 Jn. 4:19).
- e. Jesus promised that asking, seeking, and knocking will be rewarded (Matt. 7:7). We should respond to God through wanting to know more about Him.

3. He Finds Us, We Find Him

- a. Amos charged the tribes of Israel to seek God and live (5:4,6,14). Since they were the people of God, it was their privilege to demonstrate an interest in praying and worshiping their Savior.
- b. In the parables of Luke, the lost sheep is found, the misplaced coin is located, and the runaway son comes home. It is a happy ending to the seeking of that which is lost. Angels rejoice in heaven as God finds the lost ones being sought (Luke 15:5-7,9-10,24).
- c. There is no uncertainty. In the mystery of the process of salvation, God successfully locates His people Furthermore, God does not conceal Himself. He reveals His identity and welcomes into a personal relationship with open arms those who seek Him.

Conclusion

Whether it is our cell phone, glasses, or car keys, we sometimes forget where we have placed things. Our losing an item is usually followed by focused searching. We look under every cushion and piece of paper until we *finally* locate what was lost. How wonderful it feels when we find the missing possession. God searches for us like that. He rejoices when we respond in faith. Our seeking of Him and learning more each day is His expectation and our sacred privilege. We were lost but now am found. We were blind but now we see.

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