



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO MAKE YOURS

REFLECTION POINTS 12 JULY 2020

READING - AMOS 5:14-24

“ Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with
you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the
Lord:

In all the squares there shall be wailing;
and in all the streets they shall say, “Alas! alas!”
They shall call the farmers to mourning,
and those skilled in lamentation, to wailing;
in all the vineyards there shall be wailing,
for I will pass through the midst of you,
says the Lord.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the
wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and
grain offerings,

I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

READING - MATTHEW 5:21-48

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient
times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders
shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if
you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to
judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be
liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be
liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift
at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister
has something against you, leave your gift there before
the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or
sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms
quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to
court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the
judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown
into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until
you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit
adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a
woman with lust has already committed adultery with
her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear
it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one
of your members than for your whole body to be thrown
into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it
off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of

your members than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

REFLECTION POINTS

- How committed & responsible am I to my words & actions?
- Am I loving & doing good only to those who love & do good to me? What will it take of me to go beyond that?
- What is going on within me when I get frustrated & angry with others? Where is God when I’m stuck in such feelings? Am I able to find help in resolving the issues?