



THIS IS YOUR SPACE TO STAND UP

REFLECTION POINTS 5 JULY 2020

READING - AMOS 3:1-11

“ Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

² You only have I known
of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.

³ Do two walk together
unless they have made an appointment?

⁴ Does a lion roar in the forest,
when it has no prey?

Does a young lion cry out from its den,
if it has caught nothing?

⁵ Does a bird fall into a snare on the earth,
when there is no trap for it?

Does a snare spring up from the ground,
when it has taken nothing?

⁶ Is a trumpet blown in a city,
and the people are not afraid?

Does disaster befall a city,
unless the Lord has done it?

⁷ Surely the Lord God does nothing,
without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.

⁸ The lion has roared;
who will not fear?

The Lord God has spoken;
who can but prophesy?

⁹ Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod,
and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt,
and say, 'Assemble yourselves on Mount Samaria,
and see what great tumults are within it,
and what oppressions are in its midst.'

¹⁰ They do not know how to do right, says the Lord,
those who store up violence and robbery in their
strongholds.

¹¹ Therefore, thus says the Lord God:
An adversary shall surround the land,
and strip you of your defence;
and your strongholds shall be plundered.

REFLECTION POINTS

Amos begins, 'Hear this word' – of course, he is referring to God's word that has been shared with him, not his own word.

He is preaching at time of prosperity for some of the people of Israel. For others, it is a time of injustice, a time where the rich grow richer and the powerful accumulate more power.

The Jewish faith is being diluted and the understanding of the Covenant between God and the people has been forgotten.

But this has been a top down event – it isn't something the people of Israel were seeking. It has come about because the rich have been seduced by the riches and prosperity of the neighbouring nations. They want more.

Basic points:

- those who have knowledge of God are to accommodate those without or with less knowledge of God
- those in positions of power are called to care for those without power
- those with power are to serve those without
- those of us who have much will need to set aside what we *want* in order for all to have what they *need*

But if everything is going well for us, why would we want to change?

What is our motivation?

Questions asked at the end of the reflection:

- What changes are you going to make?
- What is motivating you to make those changes?
- What has God saved us from?

We read Psalm 23 for the intergen activity this morning. This blessing is based on Psalm 23 – all people are valued by God and all are invited to rest in God. We will leave no-one behind.

Go now, and embrace the hope to which God has called us.

Recognise Christ in friend and stranger,
and as Christ has been gracious to you,
so be gracious to those in need.

And may God give you a place of rest on rich pasture;
May Christ Jesus be the shepherd king who binds your wounds;

And may the Holy Spirit give you wisdom
and reveal to you the fullness of the one who fills all
in all.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Amen.

(Nathan Nettleton)