



DO FOR ONE

A BOLD STATEMENT

Matt VanCleave

June 7, 2020

GROUP ICE BREAKER

What is the most daring thing you've ever done? What made it so daring? Where did you find the courage to do it?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will come home to the father.
- I will stop abusing God's grace.
- I will end something that needs to be ended.
- I will spend time in prayer and reading the Gospels to learn about grace.
- I will write the word grace wherever I need to be reminded of it.
- I will spend time with grace-providing people.
- I will extend grace to the people around me.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Amos was a farmer, called upon by God to preach for him in the Northern Kingdom, a center of wealth and power. It is important that we understand the heart of God for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. There are over three dozen verses in the Old Testament demanding God's people show them justice and compassion. They're what in our day we would call marginalized people, people most likely to be forgotten, mistreated, or oppressed by a society. God says he will judge society by the way it treats marginalized people. God makes it unmistakably clear that he takes it on himself to be the protector of these weak ones. How do you confront a society that's so addicted to its comfort and convenience and affluence that it doesn't care about what God cares about most? We live in a society that very often encourages us to live like walking appetites for money, for food, for pleasure. The deeper problem is that people make no connection between their treatment of the oppressed and their relationship with the God who cares so very much about these people. Amos 5:24, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." Just between you and God, are you speaking for those who can't speak for themselves? Are you seeking righteousness and justice for others?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group the boldest statement you've ever said to someone. Why did you say it? How did they receive it?
2. Read Amos 2:6-8. What were the sins of Israel that God was pronouncing judgement on? Where do we see those same sins in our society today?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. In Deuteronomy 24, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow are mentioned repeatedly. Why do you think these groups are so close to the heart of God?
4. Pastor Matt said, "God's people are to have a heart like God's heart." What does that mean to you? What does a heart like that look and act like?
5. Why do you think the connection between the treatment of the oppressed, those on the margins of society, and one's relationship with God is often missed or overlooked? What are the distractions of today that contribute to that? How can it change?
6. Amos 5:24 says, "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" How are justice and love related in the words of Amos?
7. When you hear the phrase, "Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone", does that sound possible or improbable? Why?
8. We prayed at the end of the message, "God, what do you want me to do?" Share with the group what God put on your heart and what next step you are going to take.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will speak out for those who can't speak for themselves.
- I will seek righteousness and justice for others.
- I will work to love my neighbors as myself.
- I will pray about my response to the oppressed in our society.
- I will ask God what he wants me to do.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Amos 1:3
- Amos 1:6
- Amos 2:4
- Amos 2:6-8
- Deuteronomy 24:17-22
- Psalm 68:5
- Amos 3:15
- Amos 5:11
- Amos 4:1
- Amos 5:21-24
- Amos 5:4