

Amos 4

Prepare to Meet Your God

Introduction

Question: Recall a time when you wandered away from something you used to love. What brought you back?

After warning Israel repeatedly to return to the Lord, Amos now preaches an oracle of judgment.

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Question: The area of Bashan was noted for its fat, sleek cattle. What is Amos intending to say about the women of Samaria when he calls them "cows of Bashan" (vv. 2-3)?

Question: Bethel and Gilgal were centers of worship for the northern kingdom (1Kings 12:26-33; Hosea 4:15). What is the emphasis of God's sarcastic message (vv. 4-5)?

Question: God's tenderness, even during judgment, is evident in the repeated words "yet you have not returned to me" (vv. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11). Why did the people stubbornly resist the Lord despite the severe discipline sent their way?

Question: How have you experienced God's grace during discipline?

Question: Amos proclaims to Israel, "Prepare to meet your God" (v. 12). Considering this chapter, what kind of "meeting" could Israel expect this to be?

Question: What does it mean for you to be prepared to meet God?

Question: The chapter closes with a brief hymn describing the God Israel would meet in judgment (v. 13). Upon what does God base His right to judge and the certainty of His judgment? Why do you think He finishes this oracle with the truths contained in this verse?

Question: What affect does this verse have upon you today as you read it?

Reflection

In what ways does this passage reflect the tendencies of your own heart and point to your continuing need to experience the grace that's found in the gospel of Jesus Christ?