

Amos 5:18-27
The Day of the Lord

Introduction

Question: How do you feel when someone else brags about something they didn't do or don't have? Have you done this before?

Hypocrisy can be saying one thing and doing another. All of us can fall into this trap of hypocrisy. Israel was guilty of this. The church is not immune because we all need the grace of God.

Amos 5:18-27

Question: What does the word "woe" mean? Why does Amos start this passage with this word?

Question: Verse 18 infers that there were people in Amos' day who were seeking the Day of the Lord (Lamentations 2:22; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Malachi 4:5; 2 Peter 3:10). How were the Israelites mistaken about the day of the Lord (vv. 18-20)?

Question: What do you think the people of Israel thought would happen on the Day of the Lord?

Question: In verses 21-23, what are the verbs that describe God's actions? What are the nouns that describe the people's activities? What is the topic of these 3 verses?

Question: What caused God to utter such strong statements against their worship practices?

Question: Make a list of all the corporate worship practices you can think of in which you are involved. What would cause God to reject your practices as He rejected Israel's practices?

Question: What is Amos saying about the relationship between justice and righteousness and worship?

Question: Since Israel did in fact offer sacrifices during their 40 years in the wilderness, why did God accuse them of not doing this in verse 25?

Reflection

In what ways, have you been guilty of looking religious and yet been far from obeying the heart of God?