

Readings

Scripture

⁸The Lord God has sworn by himself, declares the Lord, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."

⁹And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die. ¹⁰And when one's relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, "Is there still anyone with you?" he shall say, "No"; and he shall say, "Silence! We must not mention the name of the Lord."

¹¹For behold, the Lord commands, and the great house shall be struck down into fragments, and the little house into bits. ¹²Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—¹³you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, "Have we not by our own strength captured Karnaim for ourselves?" ¹⁴"For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel," declares the Lord, the God of hosts; "and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah."

- Amos 6:8-14 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

"As you enter this life I pray you depart with a wrinkled face and a brand new heart."

- The Band U2, *Love and Peace or Else*

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- Luke 12:13-21 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Funeral Planning

Amos 5:18-6:14

Return With All Your Heart

Brad Anderson

Will you be glad for the way you lived life when it is time for you to die?

You will if you let your heart break. Let your heart break or it will be broken. God's people, above all people, should know this to be true. (Amos 6:8, 9-14)

What kinds of things must break our heart?

Let your heart break over pretense... (Amos 5:18-27)

Let your heart break over complacency... (Amos 6:1-3)

Let your heart break over luxury... (Amos 6:4-7)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What memorable scene in a film has broken your heart?
- When you think about being broken-hearted over pretense, complacency, and luxury, how would that be expressed in relationship with God and in relationship with your neighbor? What does it mean that God is near to the broken-hearted, saving those who are crushed in spirit?
- Looking back over Amos 2:6-6:14, why did Amos preach the Lord's word against Israel? How would Israel be punished?
- Looking back over Amos 1-6, how would you define the kind of justice the Lord wants from his people? How do you envision this sort of justice in its practice?
- What do you think Amos might say to the church today? Consider the following to guide your thoughts: injustice, intolerance, inequity, empty rituals, and misguided promises.
- Where do you think it would be especially difficult for our culture to receive Amos' words?