

Compassion in Action

September 17, 2006

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INTRODUCTION

I see it everyday.

I see it in their eyes.

I see it in the way walk.

I see it in the way they talk.

I see it in the expressions on their face.

It's a sense of hopelessness brought on by poverty.

- Friday's paper – homeless guy on a downtown street, making humorless jokes to get people to give to him.
- Saw a sign myself – "I'm not gonna lie, I need beer money."
- In a passage on a different subject Jesus said, "The poor you will always have with you." (Matt 26:11)
- Unfortunately, the very poor behavior of a few, reflects very badly on poor people as a whole.
- Some myths –
 - Poor people are lazy.
 - Poor people don't want to get out of poverty.
 - Poor people are always looking for a hand-out.
 - Poor people are drug addicts and alcoholics.

Continuing our series on Minor Prophets.

Amos

- Amos means "burden-bearer"
- Amos was an average "Joe", a shepherd/herdsman. He wasn't a full-time prophet. He was called by God for a moment.
- From the Southern Kingdom (Judah) but sent to Northern (Israel).
- Wrote around the same time as Hosea....Impending captivity by Assyria
- In Hosea we saw the compassion of God really come out.
- We saw God pleading with his people to repent.
- This is not the case with Amos. Amos is "matter of fact"

GOD'S ACCUSATIONS THROUGH AMOS

1. Religious corruption marked by complacency 4:4-5
2. Moral & Political Corruption 5:11-12
3. Luxurious living while ignoring the poor 6:4-6

ELABORATE ON # 3 ABOVE

- As people associated with TSA we are very passionate about this.

- I believe, we have been called by God for this purpose.
- Booth's "Soup, Soap and Salvation" (give brief history)
- This is where our vision originates:

"The Olympia Corps will be a place where people from all walks of life are welcomed, appreciated and cared for in ways that affirm their God-given value and gives them every opportunity to succeed in this life and the life to come."

- The question is, "Have we as a Corps neglected our calling?"
- And if so, does Amos' message mean something more to us?
- Sure, the Assyrians aren't going to come and attack us, but perhaps we will miss out on a blessing God has for us.
- At times, its easy to become comfortable in our nice building.
- We have to be careful that this nice building doesn't become a bunker.
- There are a number of people in this congregation that are getting involved. I appreciate your sense of mission.
- There are also a number of people that due to scheduling, transportation or other limitations simply cannot get involved. I would hope you pray regularly for our work.

Above all we need see people as they are; God's creation.

- As God's creation all people are valuable and important.
- To treat anyone like anything less, is shameful.

CONCLUSION

- Matthew 25:21-46