

Series: Now More Than Ever
Title: The Way Home
Passage: Amos 5:1-17
June 1, 2014

We come now to the passage that stands at the center, the heart of the book of Amos. Embedded in the overwhelming indictment of Israel for her sin there is this call to return to God, to seek him and live. Arranged in a seven part, chiastic structure this passage begins and ends with a lament, includes a call to return to God, has a reminder of their indifference towards the just and right society they were to have lived as God's people, and reaches its apex in the center where the absolute sovereignty of God is affirmed. He is the creator of all things and rules justly over all his creation and has the power and the will to judge sin. It is in remembering and honoring God as God that we begin the path toward healing, forgiveness, and restoration.

Engaging with each other

1. When did you feel the most "alive" this week?

Engaging with the Bible

1. This passage begins and ends with a lament over the fate of Israel (vs. 1-3 and vs. 16-17). Why do you think the prophet's heart is so broken over the fate of Israel? Is there any hope in these laments?
2. In verses 4-6 and 14-15 there is a call to repentance and a returning to the Lord. Verses 4-6 call the people to return to the Lord. Verses 14-15 call the people to seek what is good and just. How are these two related? How does this make us alive?
3. Immediately before and after the climax of the passage, Amos reminds them of the nature of their sin (v. 7 and vs. 10-13). What are the essential elements of their sin?
4. Verses 8-9 serve as the center point of this passage and of the whole book. How would you describe the author's point and why is this the central idea of the book?

Engaging with our lives

1. A.W. Tozer once said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." How would you describe what comes into your mind when you think about God? How does this relate to this week's passage?
2. While this message has application for the individual it was primarily written for the people of God as a whole. What would be different about our church if we took this message to heart?

3. What are some of the most basic ways your life would change if your view of God conformed to the picture of God revealed in Scripture? How could that make you more alive?
4. What is the essential message for us who view this passage from the other side of the cross?