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Deep Cuts: Seek Me and Live

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Amos 1:1 (NIV): The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel.

Amos 1:3 (NIV): This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent. Because she threshed Gilead with sledges having iron teeth ...”

Six nations Amos denounces: Damascus (Syria), Gaza (Philistia), Tyre (Phoenicia), Edom, Ammon, Moab

How Amos describes Israel

- Building stone mansions and planting lush vineyards (Amos 5:11)
- Lying down on beds adorned with ivory and eating choice lambs and fattened calves (Amos 6:4)
- Drinking wine by the bowlful and using the finest lotions (Amos 6:6)

Amos 2:6-8 (NIV): This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.”

Affluenza: A disease characterized by an increase in material prosperity and a decrease in spiritual passion.

Symptoms of Affluenza

- Compassion shrinks
- Comfort becomes the goal
- Sexual boundaries are redefined
- Faith becomes shallow and compartmentalized

Three Prescriptions for Breaking Free from Affluenza

Rx #1: Tune In to God's Voice

Amos 5:1-3 (NIV): Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you: "Fallen is Virgin Israel, never to rise again, deserted in her own land, with no one to lift her up." This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Israel: "Your city that marches out a thousand strong will have only a hundred left; your town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left."

Three Ways to Tune In to What God Is Saying

A. Daily Bible Reading

B. Asking the Spirit to Lead You into Truth

C. Creating Space for Silence

Rx #2: Pursue God's Person

Amos 5:4-6 (NIV): This is what the LORD says to Israel: "Seek me and live; do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing." Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV): You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Rx #3: Align Yourself with God's Standard

Amos 5:14-15 (NIV): Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

Amos 7:7-8 (NIV): This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."