

Lament and Repent

December 27, 2015

Text: Amos 5:1-17

I. A Call to Lamentation and Wailing (5:1-3, 16-17)

- A. Amos' Preemptive Lamentation (5:1-3)
- B. The Call to Wailing (5:16-17; Exodus 12:12-13)

II. Address to the Fallen (5:7-13)

- A. The Injustice of the People (5:7, 10-13)
- B. The God of Justice/Judgment (5:8-9)

III. Call for Repentance (5:4-6, 14-15)

- A. Seek the Lord and Live! (5:4-6; Deut 4:29-31; 30:1-6; Zeph 2:3; Isaiah 55:6-7)
- B. Seek Good, Not Evil; Hate Evil, Love Good; Establish Justice! (5:14-15; Deut 30:19-20; Rom 12:9)

Quotations

"We have here more than a mere elegy. It is a judgment elegy, artfully crafted—a prophetic dirge for Israel in which Yahweh speaks to and against Israel." —Douglas Stuart

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. How does Amos use lamentation to call people to repentance?
2. What role, if any, does lamentation play in Christian evangelism? How does Amos' lament differ from stereotypical fire-and-brimstone preaching?
3. What does it mean to "seek the Lord"?
4. What does it look like for you to "Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate" (5:15)?