

The Roar of the Lord

The Danger of a Self-Centered Life

Amos 4

The heart of sin is the rejection of God and the elevation of the self. It is the belief that we should be able to do whatever we want without any input from or respect for God.

Three Warning Signs of Self-Centeredness that must be Heeded

Self -Indulgence at the Cost of Others (vv. 1-3)

Rich women had been taking more than their fair share in life. They had trampled the needy and the poor and had made their husbands serve them, all of which is in complete opposition to the will of God.

The Lord has commanded His people to take care of those who are in need and has set up the home for the man to be in charge and to provide for the home.

In this passage they are called cows by God Himself, as a clear-cut word picture to represent what kind of people they had become.

To be taken away with hooks, as it says in the passage, is a picture of slavery. They would literally be dragged away in this manner into captivity

Self-Satisfaction in the Form of Worship

The people of Israel had taken the provision of God that allowed them an appropriate means to give thanks to the Lord and had corrupted it. They did it to be seen by others, offered inappropriate things, and publicly proclaimed what they did.

The purpose for which we exist is to give glory to God through worship and service. The point of worship and service is to see who God is, recognize His perfect holiness, and fall in line with His will. If we build our selves up in worship, we do not honor God, but rather we try to honor ourselves. This is a dishonor to God.

Self-Reliance Rather than Repentance

There was a famine in the land that was a result of God's judgement against the people to drive them back to Him to rely on Him, rather they did not return to Him. Instead, they continued to follow their own path.

The Lord often brings calamity upon those who disobey Him as a means to both demonstrate His authority to judge, and to show the people being punished that they cannot rely on themselves and must rely on the Lord.