

## Discipleship Group Weekly Resources

### Week 6

#### Passage: Amos 6

#### Big Thought:

Here we come to a second woe (note the previous one in 5:18) as Amos denounces the elite of the nation (*you notable men*) who were satisfied with the present state of things, reveling in their own luxury and strength as they ignored the justice issues (equity for and doing right by) of their society.

**6:1-7** – The pronouncement of woe is addressed to two groups of people because of two fundamental sins. First is Zion (Jerusalem, representing the southern kingdom) for its complacency (apparently growing out of their election as the people of God). Second is Mount Samaria (the capital of the northern kingdom) because of its false sense of security (it was a fortress city situated on a hill, leading the people to think that they were safe against invaders). Their complacency and false sense of security led them to scorn any thought of disaster and thus to continue in their evil ways.

Their main pursuit in life became luxury, comfort, entertainment and ease (all to excess) while others suffered and did without (“the ruin of Joseph”). Therefore, because of all this, they would actually be the first to go into exile, a prominence they would not be expecting!

**6:8-14** – In this second part of the oracle a divine oath (“The Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself”) of judgment is proclaimed to a doomed nation. Samaria’s false sense of security resulted in a pride that was detested by God. An oft repeated maxim in scripture is that “God humbles those who exalt themselves.” Samaria would experience that reality in a profound way!

Verses 9-11 describe the coming judgment in vivid detail.

In verse 12 we find two rhetorical questions that point out the utterly unreasonable behavior of the nation. No, horses do not run on steep, rocky crags! And no, you don’t plow the sea with oxen! To think they do is ridiculous! Yet, Israel has done something that is even crazier: the supposed guardians of justice (doing right by people) have turned it into a poison and have turned the fruit of God’s righteousness into bitterness. Their unjust decisions in courts of law made a mockery of justice in the land. In response, God once again declares that a time of judgment and exile is coming to the nation!

#### Questions:

- (1) How does Amos 6 illustrate the danger of complacency and materialistic living to the spiritual life?
- (2) How can we combat complacency and false pride in our own spiritual lives and our spiritual communities?

- (3) In Amos 6 we see a focus on social injustice. What are some ways we can take action against social injustices today?
- (4) How can we avoid letting our comfort blind us to the needs of the people around us?