

Amos 1:2, 5:10-15, 21-24 (The Message)

The Message:

God roars from Zion,

shouts from Jerusalem!

The thunderclap voice withers the pastures tended by
shepherds,

shrivels Mount Carmel's proud peak.

(vv. 10-15)

People hate this kind of talk.

Raw truth is never popular.

But here it is, bluntly spoken:

Because you run roughshod over the poor
and take the bread right out of their mouths,

You're never going to move into
the luxury homes you have built.

You're never going to drink wine
from the expensive vineyards you've planted.

I know precisely the extent of your violations,
the enormity of your sins. Appalling!

You bully right-living people,
taking bribes right and left and kicking the poor
when they're down.

Justice is a lost cause. Evil is epidemic.

Decent people throw up their hands.

Protest and rebuke are useless,
a waste of breath.

Seek good and not evil—
and live!

You talk about God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,
being your best friend.

Well, *live* like it,
and maybe it will happen.

Hate evil and love good,
then work it out in the public square.
Maybe God, the God-of-the-Angel-Armies,
will notice your remnant and be gracious.

(vv. 21-24)

"I can't stand your religious meetings.
I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions.

I want nothing to do with your religion projects,
your pretentious slogans and goals.

I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes,
your public relations and image making.

I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music.

When was the last time you sang to me?
Do you know what I want?

I want justice—oceans of it.

I want fairness—rivers of it.

That's what I want. That's all I want.

Lectio Divina

1. *Listen/Look* with your heart for a word, phrase, or idea that stands out to you.
2. *Reflect* on the part that is speaking to you in a manner that works best for you.
3. *Respond* to your reflection in prayer, noting what action you feel called to do in response.
4. *Rest* in silence.

Reflection Questions

- What good do we see being done in the world?
- What good is God already up to in our world?
- How are you feeling called to join God in the work of good?