

KEEPING HOPE ALIVE | WEEK #03

The Power in the Poem | May 1st

WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

Our world is filled with a variety of _____ experiences.
These contradicting experiences are all _____.
Poetry bears _____ to the truth of these lived experiences.
Poetry can be difficult and painful because it reveals the _____ in reality.

WHAT WISDOM DOES THE POET AMOS OFFER US IN CHAPTER 5:7-15, 21-24?

Amos' beliefs about God were consistent with _____ in the Ancient Near East.
Amos believed that Israel had a divine calling as the _____ people of God.
Amos believed that _____ and _____ held society together.
Amos believed that his community was _____ in representing Yahweh.
Amos believed that the result of their continued failure would be the violent
destruction of their _____.
Attitude always precedes _____.
Meaningful activities have meaningless _____ when done unjustly.
The wise stay silent because they know there is no _____.
Amos believes that _____ is the key to alignment with God.

DON'T MISS THIS!

Hope lives in a _____ of justice not a _____ of religion.

HOW CAN I LIVE THIS IN MY EVERYDAY, NORMAL LIFE?

A flood of justice requires a downpour of _____.
A flood of justice requires waves of _____ and _____.
A river of righteousness requires a flow of _____.
A river of righteousness requires a current of _____.

HOW DOES THIS MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

_____ and _____ cannot survive in a heart flooded with justice and
filled with righteousness.

WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. Read the book of Amos this week, keeping in mind the nature of poetry and the beliefs of Amos.
2. Read a book that will give you knowledge around one of The Five Unacceptables.
3. Prayerfully consider what actions I might be doing that are unjust or unrighteous to my neighbor.

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS:

1. Can you think of a time where you and a friend experienced the same moment but had totally different experiences? Describe what happened.
2. Why do you think Amos was so broken, angry and frustrated with the people of Israel? What personal experiences might he have had that contributed to his passion?
3. Where have you seen the danger of a flurry of religious activity without a flood of justice?
4. How easy is it for you to replace religious practices with the difficult work of justice and righteousness? What can you do to participate in bringing justice into your world?
5. What motivates hatred and violence in you? How could an experience of Justice affect those feelings? Where could righteous actions produce healing?

