

Date: January 21, 2018

Sermon Title: The Harsh Love of God

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): Amos 1-6

- 1) Who are some examples of great "non-preachers" that you've seen God use in mighty ways? Discuss how they have lived their lives. In what ways has God used you to share the gospel and love of Christ?
- 2) Think of a time in your life when God has had to speak loudly to you? What were the causes of you not listening to His voice? What did He use to get your attention?
- 3) Read Amos 3:1-2. Why had God saved the Israelites from Egypt and the pharaoh? How has America become guilty of this? In what ways have you been guilty of this?
- 4) Point #5 in Richard's sermon was: "Don't waste your life by pursuing excessive indulgence." How had the Israelites become excessively indulgent? Discuss ways America has fallen into this way of life.
- 5) How does excessive indulgence affect our relationship with the Lord? With our families? With our friends? In what ways does our perspective change as we become increasingly indulgent?
- 6) Quote from Richard's sermon about how much is too much: "Too much is when it deafens you to God, isolates you from serving, and hardens you to suffering." Examine your heart concerning this. What do you find? What steps can you take to fight against this trend?
- 7) Richard used James 4:14 to exhort us to not waste our life. How did this scripture, along with his visual aid, speak to your heart? In what ways did God stir in you to make the most of every opportunity?
- 8) God gave the Israelites many warnings to bring them back to Himself. Discuss how God is doing this with America. Apply this to your own life. How is God trying to bring you back to Himself?
- 9) Read Amos 5:4. What are some practical ways you can apply this scripture to your life?