

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND TRUE RELIGION

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social Justice is the way of guiding against any form of social evil like oppression, injustice, and discrimination in the society.

1. Amos condemned social injustice in Israel.
2. The poor and the needy were sold for a pair of Sandals when they could not pay their debt.
3. The rich used the garments of the poor taken in pledge as mat.
4. The trader cheated the poor by using false weight and balance.
5. The women of Samaria demanded for expensive things from their husbands and these forced them to exploit the poor to satisfy their needs
6. . As a result of heavy demands from their husbands, Amos called them 'Cows of Bashan'.
7. All the Judges were corrupt as they took bribes from the rich and perverted justice of the poor.
8. Amos condemned all these social evils and called for social justice.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The social injustice in the time of Amos can be compared to our own situation today:

1. The poor who get into debt is at the mercy of the money lender.
2. Our traders cheated by adulterating their product.
3. The rich and powerful people deny justice to the poor by bribing Judges to give justice in their favour.
4. We must learn to condemn all social injustice as Amos did.

Amaziah's Reaction to Amos' Message against Social Injustice (Amos 7: 10- 17)

1. The religious leader in the time of Amos hated him for preaching against Social and religious evils.
2. Amaziah, the priest of the royal sanctuary at Bethel reported Amos to the king Jeroboam, and he accused him of conspiracy and sedition.
3. He said that Amos also said the king shall die by sword, and Israel shall surely go into exile.
4. Amos was commanded by Amaziah to go back to Judah to continue his prophecy and earn his living there.
5. Amos was seriously warned never to prophecy in Bethel because it was the royal sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom.

6. Amos replied that he was not a prophet nor a prophet son but he was an herd's man tending his flock under sycamore tree before God called him to prophesy in Israel
Amos pronounced the following curses on Amaziah for challenging him:
- i. His wife would become a harlot in city.
 - ii. His sons and daughters would be killed by the sword.
 - iii. His land would be divided line by line.
 - iv. Amaziah himself would die in an unclean or foreign land.
 - v. Israel would surely go into exile.

SIGNIFICANCE

1. .Amos condemnation by Amaziah shows the selfish interest of the religious' leaders and other highly placed people in the society.
2. As Christians, we are to condemn people like Amaziah in the society.

TRUE RELIGION (AMOS 5: 21-24)

True religion is a way of combine together ritual and ceremonial aspects of our faith with its moral requirements.

Amos condemned four false practices and recommended some things in replacement.

AMOS CONDEMNED THESE ACTS:

1. Emphasis on external worship to the neglect of morality.
2. Wrong use of solemn assemblies
3. Unhealthy attitude towards holy days
4. Swearing in the name of pagan gods

THINGS THAT AMOS RECOMMENDED IN REPLACEMENT ARE:

1. To place more emphasis on true religion by practicing morality and not external worship alone
2. To give up pagan practices at solemn assemblies and to observe holy days in the spirit of true religion and swear in the name of the lord
3. They must come back to God in repentance in order to ensure the survival of the nation
4. If they failed to return to God, and practice righteousness and justice , God would punish them .
5. The people should uphold justice in all their dealing.
6. God was after their heart not after the melody of their songs and burnt offering
7. The days of the lord should be kept with ordinance and status.

SIGNIFICANCE: Two things stand out from Amos idea:

1. We are not to fear that regular church attendance and prompt payment of tithes and church dues as the end of our religion
2. We must lay more emphasis on the moral demands of our faith through practice of good human relationship.