

## ESTABLISH JUSTICE IN THE GATE

### Amos 5: 14-15

Amos prophesies during a period of national optimism in Israel. Business is booming and boundaries are bulging. But below the surface, greed and injustice are festering. Hypocritical religious motions have replaced true worship, creating a false sense of security and a growing callousness to God's disciplining hand. Famine, drought, plagues, death and destruction—nothing can force people to their knees. In chapter 5 Amos says "Hear this word." But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. (vs. 24)

Our country is battling two destructive forces: a virus called covid 19 and injustice particular for people of color. Battling the virus is a communal problem. We all should shelter in place, minimize our contact with others and wear a mask. This airborne virus is a threat to all humanity like a plague. Until there is a vaccine we should stay the course with the aforementioned. However, racism is an injustice that can be corrected when we establish justice in the gate.

We are in a crucial hour in this country. We have discovered injustices in the Atlanta Police Department among Black officers. Injustice is not restricted to race but to any wickedness to intentionally harm others. Justice means the quality of being righteous. Righteousness is synonymous with integrity. In this country which declares liberty and justice for all, we no longer can afford mistreatment of people because of culture, religion, economics and or sexuality. The message of the gospel is whosoever will let him/her come. Whosoever has each of our names on it. It is time for the congregations to establish justice in the gate of the church, then in our community and in our country.

Let me share with you three ways in which we can establish justice in the gate.

1. Justice Requires Integrity. (vs. 14a)
  - A. Seek goodness
  - B. Seek godliness
  
2. Justice Requests Involvement. (14b)
  - A. Right to voice
  - B. Right to vote
  
3. Justice Respects Inclusion. (v. 15)
  - A. Respect diversity
  - B. Respect divinity