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Topic: Reject False Worship & Repent Series Title: Alert Chapters: Amos 4 Jan. 29th, 2025

Central Text: Amos 4:7, NKJV, "I also withheld rain from you, When there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, And where it did not rain the part withered.

Introduction

Although *God controlled* their blessings and consequences, *Israel refused* to reject their false religious practices and return to him in repentance.

How do we reject false worship and repent?

1.Acknowledge the Certainty of God Allowed Consequences – Amos 4:1-3

Question for Dialogue: How has a desire to express your love to Jesus through your lifestyle helped you avoid God's discipline?

2.Beware When We Can Practice Empty Religion Without Conviction – Amos 4:4-5

God's encouragement to continue in sin should have significantly alarmed Israel that a significant consequence was on the horizon. God can give us over to a debased mind if we persist in disobedience *(Romans 1:28)* When we can sin without losing sleep or feeling dread, it should alarm us that *God has set in stone an irreversible consequence*.

Illustration: When a parent seems unaffected by an action they've always been affected by...Children should... **Connect -** We should take time to consider the many ways that God can devastate us if He so desires as a way to curve our unchecked sin.

Question for Dialogue: How do you define empty religion? Have you ever felt caught in it? If so, how did it feel?

3.Remember and Learn from God's Past Discipline to Repent and Avoid Disaster – Amos 4:6-13

All of us have embarrassing moments of succumbing to our sin-nature. We all have had to apologize for moments of weakness. <u>We need to remember the conviction of the Holy Spirit</u> and the consequences of those moments to help us repent of current sins and areas of unfaithfulness.

<u>**Question for Dialogue:**</u> Considering past times of disobedience to God, and God's restoration after we repented, although we suffered consequences for those actions, what does God's restoration say about His tremendous love for us?