

“Listen to this, you who rob the poor and trample down the needy! You can’t wait for the Sabbath day to be over and the religious festivals to end so you can get back to cheating the helpless. You measure out grain with dishonest measures and cheat the buyer with dishonest scales. And you mix the grain you sell with chaff swept from the floor. Then you enslave poor people for one piece of silver or a pair of sandals.” Amos 8:4-6 NLT

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This bowl of fruit is NOT like the others! God asks Amos what he sees, he sees a bowl of ripe fruit. God says, “yeah, it’s ripe, just like Israel is ripe for judgment!” Well this is a an odd object lesson to make a point. Ripe fruit - ripe, stinky behaviors that just won’t quit. God is sick of it and it’s more than obvious that he HATES cheaters. Especially ones that continue to carry on religious looking behaviors, just to “rush” off and get back to ripping people off - more pointedly, the POOR and the helpless. Reminds me of these commercials running about “menthol cigarettes” and how the tobacco companies are targeting the black communities. I don’t know if it’s true, but if it is, this is so despicable! Oh, I know folks have a choice to buy or not buy, smoke or not smoke - but targeting someone to take advantage, not cool. God is so angry that the cheaters are subtle, thinking “no one knows” what they’re up to. Of course God sees the “religious” cutting the grain with floor-chaff! You know who else knows? The poor know it. They can tell their grain is a little wonky and somehow they get less of it for the same price everyone else pays. I don’t believe the poor to be STUPID, just HELPLESS. If they make a big deal out of being cheated, it may make things worse. Who’s going to listen, the judges? They’re corrupt as well. I am just sick of any system, any group, grabbing power and rigging it so the poor are mistreated. Whoa to any government or entity that robs the poor by cheating them! Whoa to our government, our businesses, our schools, healthcare and churches that “look” so good but are dishonest with the helpless. Okay, rant is over. Thanks for reading.

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God,

Help me, help us if we EVER position our power to look good on the outside but corrupt and dishonest on the inside! Give us mercy Oh God. Forgive us for our blindness to pursue Sabbaths and celebrations and ignore your heart for justice towards the helpless and the poor.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root