



Today's story is about two Old Testament prophets, named Amos and Micah, who lived and wrote hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Both Amos and Micah reminded God's people to be responsible for each other. Amos and Micah wrote a lot about our Leadership Leaf for this week - JUSTICE.

We usually think of JUSTICE as fairness and following the law. But, for the prophets Amos and Micah, JUSTICE also meant taking care of others and helping to grow the world into a fairer place.

Amos was a farmer and shepherd. He worked hard taking care of fig trees. People were surprised that God would speak to such a poor, hardworking man that came from nowhere. God's message through Amos was that His people needed to "clean up their act". Amos shouts out that God is measuring us, that God wants us to deserve the good things He is ready to give to us.

The Book of Amos, Chapter 5 says:

"Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

The prophet Micah was also from a small country town. Micah warned people that when they stole from each other or hurt each other they deserved JUSTICE. Micah wrote that JUSTICE would help bring peace and end war. Micah speaks about how God will teach His people to live the right way again.

The Book of Micah, Chapter 4 says:

"Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken."

Micah also talks about a new ruler of God's people, to be born in Bethlehem. Micah Chapter 5 says:

"But you, Bethlehem... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel... He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace."

During Advent, we remember the message of prophets like Amos and Micah. They remind us to work for JUSTICE and peace on the earth, to seek good, not evil, and to expect a great ruler to be born in Bethlehem.

Minor Prophets

O R H O S E A I L Z
 B B J O E L H A H E
 J L A S N C I A A C
 O I O D A D I Y M H
 N M A L I N R I M A
 A T A G A A C U S R
 H M J H G A H R S I
 Z M P F H A V V B A
 E E Y J N T H T O H
 Z H A B A K K U K T

Hosea
 Obadiah
 Nahum
 Haggai

Joel
 Jonah
 Habakkuk
 Zechariah

Amos
 Micah
 Zephaniah
 Malachi