

12 July 2015 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Amos 7:7–15; Psalm 85:8–13; Ephesians 1:3–14; Mark 6:14–29.



Theme: *New plumb lines* – Amos 1:7-8, “This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a **plumb line**, with a **plumb line** in his hand. And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “**A plumb line.**” Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am setting a **plumb line** in the midst of my people Israel.” ***Righteous and holy* – Mark 6:20**, “for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a **righteous and holy man**, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.”

I. **RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

A. **What we ARE.**

Mark 6:20, “Herod feared John, knowing that he was a **righteous and holy man...**”

John 1:12, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:21, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the **righteousness of God.**”

B. **What we DO.**

Amos 5:24, “Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”



II. **HOLINESS.**

Mark 6:20, “for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a **righteous and holy man...**”

A. **The negative.**

1 John 3:3, 6, “And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure**... No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”

B. The positive.

Holy Addition: 2 Peter 1:5-7, “For this very reason, **make every effort to add to your faith goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**; and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**; and to godliness, **mutual affection**; and to mutual affection, **love**.”

III. PROPHECY.

Amos 7:15, “But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘**Go, prophesy to my people Israel**.’”

Mark 6:20, “**When he heard him**, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.”

Acts 2:17-18, “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and **your sons and your daughters shall prophesy... my male servants and female servants... shall prophesy**.”

1 Corinthians 14:1, 3, 5, 39, “**Eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy**... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **strengthening, encouraging and comfort**... **I want you all** to speak in tongues, but even more **to prophecy**... Therefore, my brothers and sisters, **be eager to prophecy**...”

Illustrations: Jackie Pullinger; Crossway youth camp; GPC-Hillsong; breakfast.

CONCLUSION: Jesus, the ultimate plumline. **Matthew 11:11**, “Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. **Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he**.” May God help us to at least be an act like one of the “least” of these, in Jesus’ name. Amen.