

Amos 3:4-5

Consequences

Will a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Will a young lion cry out of his den, if he has caught nothing? Will a bird fall into a snare on the earth, where there is no trap for it? Will a snare spring up from the earth, if it has caught nothing at all?

Each person reading these words is involved in some kind of interactive environment every day: your home, a job, school, or other situation. You are most likely very familiar with the sights and sounds of these environments. You know that there are good or bad consequences for certain actions or decisions, either yours or someone else's. Likewise, as outdoorsmen involved in the natural world, we see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what goes on out there. Will a lion roar when he doesn't have his prey? No, that's because he's quietly stalking his victim. Will a bird behave wildly when in fact it's not been caught? No, unless it's got serious problems! We could ask other questions like, "Will my truck run if there's no fuel in the tank?" Or, "Can I fillet a bluegill with a machete?" No and no. These are certainties of life in the outdoors. Just as we are sure of things like this, we can be sure that God will bring judgment upon those who reject Him and salvation to those who confess Jesus is Lord.

Amos prophesied about the certainty of God's response to the choices we make about a relationship with Him. The question could be asked, "If people disobey God, will God ignore it?" The answer is no. But there's good news, too. God also has a certain response when someone honors and obeys Him. As the shepherd Amos spoke of God's impending judgment on disobedient people, the Shepherd Jesus speaks of God's good pleasure to give His flock the kingdom (Luke 12:32).

TIP: On a recent day hike in Missouri, I heard a shuffling in the leaves. A few seconds later, a covey of quail exploded in front of me. I've also heard grouse "get set" like this before launching into the air. Be alert to similar noises in the field or woods. There is certain to be animal activity to follow, usually in an instant!

Copyright © 2008 Don Hamlin. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Amos 3:4-5 (Study Guide)

Consequences

HOOK

1. What time of day are you most active? Why is this?

2. What is the most peculiar or bizarre thing you've seen outdoors? Explain in detail.

3. You hear a shuffling in the leaves while tent camping one night. List all the things it could be.

LINE

As outdoorsmen involved in the natural world, we see, hear, smell, taste, and feel what goes on out there. Just as we are sure of how certain things occur outdoors, we can be sure that God will bring judgment upon those who reject Him and salvation to those who confess Jesus is Lord.

Amos prophesied about the certainty of God's response to the choices we make about a relationship with Him. The question could be asked, "If people disobey God, will God ignore it?" The answer is no. But there's good news, too. God also has a certain response when someone honors and obeys Him. As the shepherd Amos spoke of God's impending judgment on disobedient people, the Shepherd Jesus speaks of God's good pleasure to give His flock the kingdom

What do you do that pleases God? Why does it please God to give His flock the kingdom?

Think about your daily routine. What kind of choices impact your relationship with Jesus, in good or bad ways? What will you do to strengthen good decision-making?

SINKER

Take a few minutes to write your thoughts on this devotional. Reflect on your own experiences. Key words: choices certainty God's good pleasure
