

Reflection

“Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.” (Amos 6:7)

Amos paints a picture of the complacency of the rulers of his time. The common people usually slept on mats placed on the ground, but the wealthy enjoyed the luxury of beds of ivory and luxurious couches. The wealthy also enjoyed the elegant feasts, eating lamb and veal, drinking wine in abundance, enjoying beautiful music, and wearing expensive perfumes. The poor people, whom they exploited couldn't afford to kill tender lambs and calves, but had to settle for occasional mutton and beef, perhaps from a sacrifice. They would serve only cups of wine, not bowls.

The context in our country is not different that we find in the scripture. Leaders are not interested in the good of the people and are enjoying luxurious lives. What is our take in this context? Do we face a moral crisis of supporting or not supporting the cause of the oppressed? Dante says in his masterpiece “Inferno” that the darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crisis. Amos is also warning of the incomplicity of the people of God. Thus, do we choose neutrality or do we raise our voice against injustices in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and, maybe suffer a bit in this world?

Prayer

Dear God, help us never to be incomplete in this world but strengthen us to be active in your service. Amen.