



The Testimony of John M. Perkins

Amos 5:21-24; Luke 4:16-21

October 30, 2022

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction

On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the church's testimony and reflect on a key theme: *The Whole Gospel*.

The Text:

Amos 5:21-24

²¹ "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs, to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The life of John M. Perkins reminds the Christian that the Gospel redeems the physical, not just the spiritual.

1. The Testimony of John M. Perkins (1930 -).
2. Amos 5:21-24 contrasts empty worship with living faith.
3. In Luke 4:16-21, Jesus Christ proclaims his Gospel work as having a complete physical dimension.

Response:

Jesus Christ has/is ascended in the flesh. Praise the Lord that He has redeemed the whole of our bodies!

Small Group Questions
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- 1) Starter Question: Have you ever had a time in your life when you were treated unjustly? How did that make you feel?

- 2) What stood out to you the most about the life and ministry of John M. Perkins?

- 3) How does John M. Perkins's testimony challenge the values and aspirations of our world today?

- 4) Read Amos 5:21-24 together. Discuss any questions or observations you have about the text. (Read Amos 2:4-16 for more context)

- 5) How is verse 24 of Amos 5 connected thematically to verses 21-23? What can this connection teach us about the Christian faith?

- 6) Read Luke 4:16-21. Discuss any questions or observations you have about the text.

- 7) What do Jesus's prophetic words in Luke 4:16-21 teach us about the "physicality" of the Gospel?

- 8) What does it mean to pursue "the whole Gospel?" How might this teaching be challenging to our current convictions around the topic(s) of justice?

- 9) What are some current issues in the world today that the "whole Gospel" speaks to directly?

- 10) What does it look like to pursue the "whole Gospel" in your life today?

Further study this week: (Texts about justice) Amos 2:4-16 (Mon); Matthew 19:16-30 (Tues); Matthew 23:1-36 (Wed); Matthew 25:31-46 (Thurs); James 1:19-27 (Fri).