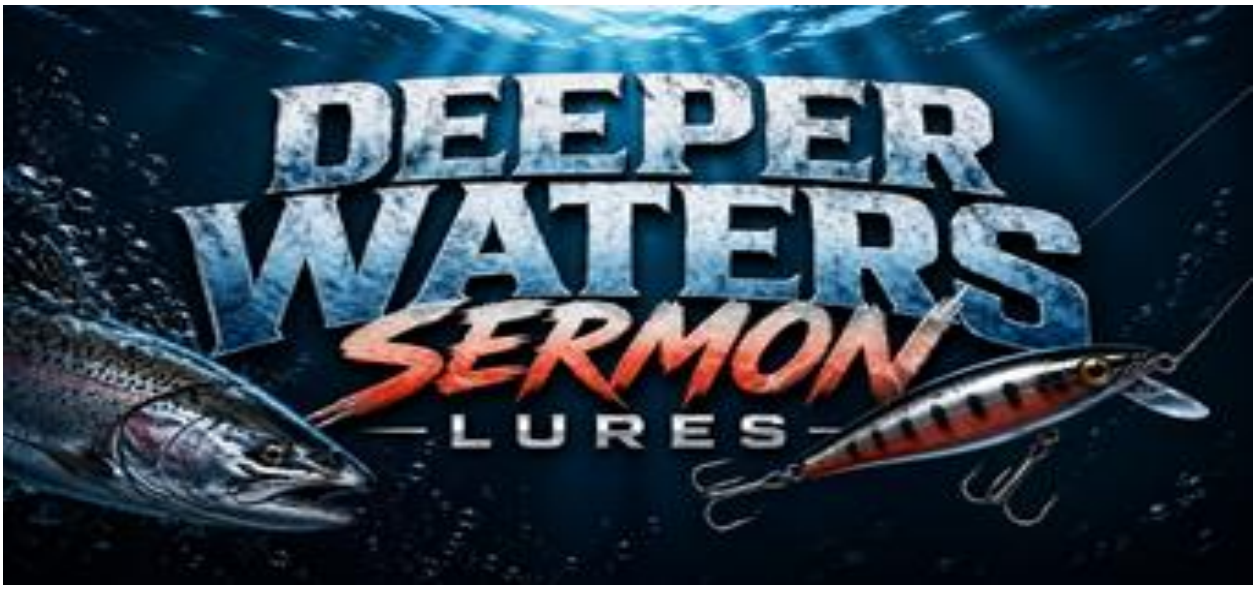


KNOW IT!

The sermon reminds us that after an election season full of hype, anxiety, and polarized expectations, God's vision of justice and mercy doesn't line up neatly with any political party or cultural agenda. Amos warns that God isn't impressed by worship, identity, or enthusiasm when they aren't backed up by real compassion and justice for others. Jesus' "Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids" echoes this, showing that simply "showing up" isn't enough — we need the "oil" of lived mercy, humility, and love. The sermon challenges us not to be surprised when God calls us beyond our comfort zones and political assumptions toward a life shaped by justice that "rolls down like waters." In the end, we prepare for Christ's coming not by being perfect, but by being faithful in everyday acts of neighbor-love.

READ IT!

Micah 6:6–8 A direct companion to Amos: God rejects empty religious performance and declares what true faith looks like — *"to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."* It reinforces the sermon's call to justice over ritual or political identity.

Isaiah 58:1–12 Isaiah exposes worship that looks holy but ignores the oppressed. God says the fast he chooses is to "loose the bonds of injustice," echoing Amos' warning that worship without mercy is hollow and Matthew's call to be prepared through lived obedience.

James 2:14–17 James insists that faith without works is dead — a perfect New Testament parallel to the "oil" of Matthew 25 and Amos' demand for justice that "rolls down like waters."

"The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" — Ursula K. Le Guin A powerful exploration of societal injustice hidden beneath comfort and celebration. It mirrors Amos' funeral song for a nation that thinks it is righteous while benefiting from the suffering of the vulnerable.

"If We Must Die" — Claude McKay A call for dignity, courage, and justice in the face of oppression. It resonates with Amos' insistence that God stands with the marginalized and with Jesus' call to readiness rooted in righteousness.

***To Kill a Mockingbird* — Harper Lee** Atticus Finch's commitment to truth and justice — even when unpopular — reflects the prophetic courage Amos demands. The novel exposes how communities can believe they are righteous while perpetuating injustice

WATCH IT!

Just Mercy A powerful story of Bryan Stevenson's fight for justice on behalf of the wrongly convicted. It mirrors Amos' insistence that God stands with the oppressed and that real righteousness requires courage, compassion, and truth — not just good intentions or religious identity.

The Lord of the Rings Ordinary, flawed characters carry the weight of resisting evil and protecting the vulnerable. Their readiness, perseverance, and moral courage echo Matthew 25's call to carry "oil" — lived obedience and mercy — rather than relying on status or appearance.

The Chosen This series highlights how Jesus calls imperfect people into a life of transformed obedience. It reinforces the sermon's message that showing up isn't enough; discipleship requires justice, compassion, humility, and readiness for Christ's surprising work.

The Book of Amos — The Bible Project (RightNow Media)

This video series explores Amos' prophetic critique of empty worship and corrupted justice. It directly supports the sermon's central theme: God rejects religious performance divorced from mercy and calls His people to let justice "roll down like waters."

James* by *Francis Chan's on RightNow Media also fits beautifully — emphasizing that faith without works is dead and that authentic worship overflows with justice and mercy.

LIVE IT!

Replace Political Assumptions with Prayerful Listening When conversations about politics arise — especially after an election — pause and listen before reacting. Ask yourself: *Am I responding from my party's expectations or from Christ's call to mercy, humility, and truth?* This practice helps you stay spiritually awake and keeps your lamp filled with the "oil" of compassion rather than the fuel of polarization.

Make Worship a Launchpad for Justice, Not a Substitute for It After Sunday worship, choose one way your faith will shape your week: forgiving someone, volunteering, encouraging a coworker, or practicing generosity. Amos reminds us that worship without transformed living rings hollow; this step helps ensure your Sunday faith becomes Monday mercy.