

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time B Homily

The Old Testament is full of intriguing stories. The account of Amaziah's banishing Amos from Bethel around the year 750 B.C. has significant meaning in our times.

Amaziah was the most powerful religious figure in Bethel. He spoke and acted with the authority of the king. Amos was a not so powerful shepherd and a caretaker of sycamore trees until God changed his life. Amos had the unenviable task of delivering God's unwelcome messages to the King and the people of Israel: repent and turn back to the Lord and His ways or you will all be exiled by a conquering army.

They didn't listen. They were conquered and exiled. Their relatively comfortable lifestyles vanished and they became slaves; living out their miserable lives in absolute poverty. They turned away from God's ways because they had achieved so much by their own efforts in life and didn't want a nagging father-figure reminding them to honor and respect God.