

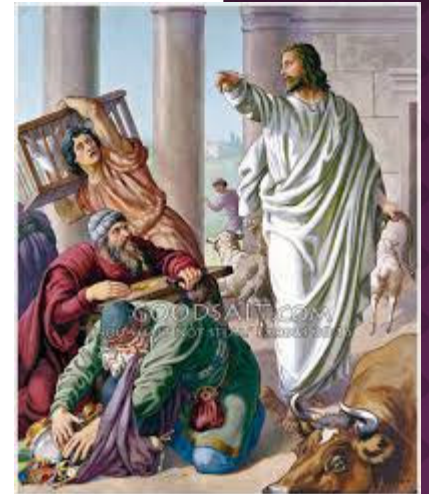
FALSIFYING THE SCALES (AMOS 8:4-5)



DISHONESTY: AMOS 8: 4-7

*Hear this, you who swallow up the needy,
And make the poor of the land fail,
Saying: “When will the New Moon be past,
That we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat?
Making the ephah small and the shekel large,
Falsifying the scales by deceit,
That we may buy the poor for silver,
And the needy for a pair of sandals—
Even sell the bad wheat?”*

*The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their works...”*



REPRIMAND

- ◉ For dishonest gain:
- ◉ *Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit (NKJV)*
- ◉ *Skimping on the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales (NIV)*
- ◉ *لِنَصْغِرَ الْإِيفَةَ وَنُكَبِّرَ الشَّاقِلَ وَنَعْوِجَ مَوَازِينَ الْغِشِّ*



EPHAH (MEASURE)

- An ancient Hebrew dry measure equivalent to a bushel (~ 14 kg)



SHEKEL (MEASURE)

- ◉ A silver coin
- ◉ A Unit of weight used in ancient Israel



MAKING THE EPHAH SMALL AND THE SHEKEL LARGE

- ◉ The merchant will weight out an ephah of wheat
- ◉ He'll weight out a shekel of silver
- ◉ Making the ephah small and the shekel large is double-deceit!
 - ◉ He sells less grain and gets more silver



SPIRITUAL FALSIFYING OF SCALES

- ◉ Not only in materialistic transactions (buying and selling)
- ◉ Also in spiritual transactions
- ◉ In our relationship with
 - ◉ God
 - ◉ Each other
- ◉ Receiving more than giving...



OUR SPIRITUAL CANONS

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing Prayers, fasts, spiritual readings	Expecting great grace, talents from the Holy Spirit

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1Jn 5:14-15)



OUR SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing the importance of our spiritual activities	Increasing the importance of our earthly activities

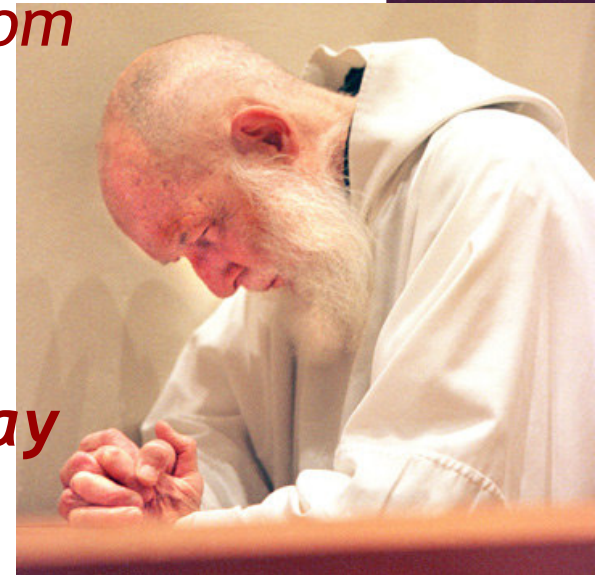
*“But **seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matt 6:33)*



GOD'S GRACE

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our value of God's grace in our life	Expecting that those with us are greater than those against us

*“8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**” (1Cor 12)*



OUR OFFERINGS

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our offerings of: alms, effort, time	Expecting great blessings and gifts

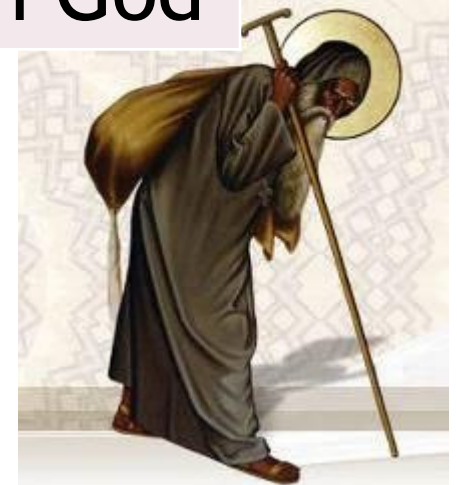
*“Let them **do good**, that they be rich in good works, **ready to give**, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (1Tim 6)*



OUR CLEMENCY

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our charitable deeds of mercy	Expecting great mercies from God
Reducing our forgiveness towards others	Expecting great clemency from them and from God

- ◉ *“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.” (Matt 5:7)*
- ◉ *“And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.” (Matt 6:12; Lord’s prayer)*



OUR FOCUS

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our focus on the essentials	Increasing our focus on the superficial

- *“For I desire **mercy** and not sacrifice, And the **knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.” (Hos 6:6)*
- *“Even so you also **outwardly appear righteous** to men, but **inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.**” (Matt 23:28)*



OUR FEELINGS AND ATTENTION

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our feelings towards others	Expecting great love, attention, recognition
Reducing our attention of listening to others	Expecting relent-less attention when we want to speak

- ◉ *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” (Eph 4:31-32)*
- ◉ *“The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The Lord has made them both.” (Prov 20)*



OUR SYMPATHY

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our sentiments towards others' pains and sufferings	Expecting great sentiments for our own pain and suffering

- ◎ *“15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and **weep with those who weep.** 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. “ (Rom 12)*
- ◎ *Attending weddings vs. funerals*



OUR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing our appreciation and thanks to other	Expecting great gratitude for our own effort
Reducing our recognition of others' gifts and abilities	Expecting great recognition of our own talents

*“6 Having then **gifts differing** according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering...” (Rom 12)*



OUR SINS

Skimping the measure	Boosting the price
Reducing the weight of our sins	Enlarging the seriousness of other's ignorance and weaknesses

- *“Hypocrite! First remove the **plank** from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the **speck** from your brother's eye.” (Matt 7:5)*
- *“Grant, O Lord, that our sacrifice may be accepted before You for **my own sins** and for the **ignorance of Your people.**” (Preparation Prayer)*



REBALANCE THE MEASURES

- ◉ We have become very deceitful in our scales:
 - Spirituality
 - Focus
 - Gratitude
 - Charity
- ◉ We ask God to help us rebalance the measures of our hearts, minds, spirits, so that we regain love and humility.
- ◉ Lest we hear the Lord saying:
 - *“Surely I will never forget any of [your] works...”*

