

**Thoughts on the Daily Word**

13<sup>th</sup> Week of the Year. *Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Readings: Amos 8:4-6,9-12; Psalm: 118; Matthew 9:9-13.*

Amos is one of the most radical of prophets. Most prophets in his time were a part of families or political groups and they tended to be hereditary. Most were used to toe the political line, just like today. Amos was a farmer from Juda called by God to leave his work and go proclaim God's Word to the Northern kingdom of Israel that had broken away from the Davidic dynasty at Jerusalem. It was far larger and much richer, largely disregarding the Covenant with the God of the Exodus. Amos challenges and preaches a word of justice and integrity that has become famous. Once again today he speaks on behalf of the poor and exploited. Matthew reminds us of our call, like Amos, to proclaim the radical difference of God's coming kingdom.