

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 7:1-3

SING:

Cry out for mercy  
In a world en route  
To the judgment of God  
Cry out for mercy  
Pray that hearts will turn  
And that idols will burn  
And that God will hear our plea  
Cry out for mercy  
Cry out for mercy

### **James 2:8-13**

*If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

Beloved, it the easiest thing for our fallen flesh to exalt one and debase another. But *all* of this business of exalting and debasing and judging is for God to decide—as we will see in this week's verses. *Our* only duty is to fervently intercede as God's own righteous prayer warriors—according to the heart and will of God.

And so must we do as Amos did.

*Cry out for mercy.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Do you remember an instance when you were tempted to call down judgment—even your own—on an offending person? Did you follow through with your verdict, or did God intervene? What about your heart—did God do a work within you to change your judging to mercy?

\*STUDY POINT: Find three epic passages in the Old Testament that demonstrate God's great mercy, even upon His own children. Study out these passages and find the seed principles that might help us understand God's mercy better.

## **Amos 7:1**

*(KJV) Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.*

*(NIV) This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: He was preparing swarms of locusts after the king's share had been harvested and just as the late crops were coming up.*

As we now enter the third and final section of The Book of Amos, we find our part-time prophet travelling from the capital city of Samaria and continuing his prophetic preaching tour now in Bethel. As we read through this week's passage, we get a preview of the first of five of God's next judgments on Israel. Remember that these events are first playing only within the mind and spirit of Amos, as he receives them from God.

As God did through so many prophetic voices in the Old Testament—minus today's myriad Bible versions or Christian resources galore—He spoke through dreams and visions. Within the vision God gave Amos here, He sees to it that the king's share of the crops of grain would be preserved off the top, pre-locust! The king comes first, folks:

## **1Kings 4:26-28**

*Solomon had four thousand stalls for chariot horses, and twelve thousand horses. The district governors, each in his month, supplied provisions for King Solomon and all who came to the king's table. They saw to it that nothing was lacking. They also brought to the proper place their quotas of barley and straw for the chariot horses and the other horses.*

Unfortunately, this would mean that the latter crops would be destroyed—the very grain that normally would feed poor farmers and the general populous. Being a struggling, hard-working farmer himself, Amos could not allow God to destroy the people he was sent to warn and hopefully save from God's wrath.

## **Amos 7:2**

*(KJV) And it came to pass, that when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.*

*(NIV) When they had stripped the land clean, I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"*

The vision continues with God exacting His punishment upon the corrupted and compromised Israelites. Nothing is left of the land or crops for the farmers or citizens.

*For he is small.* Our God is merciful. He cares for the least of us. Jesus died for the least of us. Therefore, the least we can do:

## **Matthew 25:40**

*And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

(Note: For context, read all of Matthew 25)

**James 1:27**

*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

Amos appeals to God's compassion and grace toward the poor and the lowly. God reveals clearly to us through His Word how we are to respond with merciful action when We come to know His heart for people. Now here is a people in God's sight lines who deserve His punishment, and Amos is still compelled to appeal to *God's mercy*.

**Romans 5:8**

*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

And all praise to God Who made a way for those positioned for His discipline—you and me. So, God, what is the verdict, have You heard the cries of Your people?

**2Chronicles 7:14**

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have you considered the potential power of your intercessory prayers? Based on 2 Chronicles 7:14, what actions might you take alone and within your church to embolden this area of ministry?

\*STUDY POINT: From the New Testament, identify three of the most effective intercessory prayer warriors. Write out these passages and pray the prayers they prayed. Let this experience inform and inspire your own prayer life.

So, then what? How does this particular vision of Amos end? Surely someone—even the common—will pray and cry out for mercy.

Here it is, here is God's response:

**Amos 7:3**

*(KJV) The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.*

*(NIV) So the LORD relented. "This will not happen," the LORD said.*

Hallelujah!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland