

When God Calls The Common: Amos

Amos 7:14-15

Did you know that God has a call on your life?

Did you know that God is awaiting an answer?

He has a larger call on your life, and He has smaller assignments too, while you are alive and walking on this planet.

This passage from Isaiah 6 gives us insight into how God prepares a called one—namely you and me—to ministry.

Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah to the one who says yes to the call of God!

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life, beloved, be assured that God has a call upon your life. This call is to go.

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Do you remember a distinct moment when God called you to go, according to His Word? How did He communicate this to your heart?

*STUDY POINT: Find three passages in the New Testament where God called His own to go. What were the responses of each of those individuals whom He called?

And where God guides you, be assured that He will provide for you:

Hebrews 13:5-6

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Yes, beloved, God provides everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)—and for the fulfillment of the Great Commission through our surrender lives. Is that exciting?

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How should the great message of God's provision in His sending affect our walk with Him? How might this truth transform your own response to God's call?

As we have been learning, Amos was no professional prophet-for-profit but just a common sheep farmer and producer of sycamore fruit (Amos 7:14) who loved God and had compassion on his countrymen. And there had to have been a moment when Amos said yes to God's call on his life. In fact, every believer in Jesus must come to that crossroads—that crisis of faith—where a decision must be made to follow God and His customized plan to fulfill the Great Commission. Only two choices exist in our walk with God—yes or no. As we learned last week, our yes decision of obedience will be met

with pushback and opposition from Satan, but also much more joy and strength and power via the Holy Spirit. Remember that Amos—and indeed all surrendered followers of Jesus—are sent wielding the Sword of the Spirit, the Truth (Ephesians 6:17). What a weapon!

In the case of Amos, pushback came in the most deceiving way—through the overseer of the Bethel temple, Amaziah. This priest came into office via suspect political means, and not through any Levitical ancestry or spiritual credentials. However, Amaziah took his position seriously and did not want the religious constructs of Bethel challenged or rebuked, lest his congregants (including star member King Jereboam!) might become enlightened by truth and drop their allegiance to and worship of false gods.

It is interesting that Amaziah is only interested in getting rid of Amos and his message out of Bethel. What Amos does once he is gone is someone else's problem, right?

His approach to excusing Amos on back to his homeland is not violent but is devious. Remember what brought Adam and Eve down in Genesis 3. It was a subtle and seductive snake of a devil! If he cannot kill and destroy us (John 10:10) and God's good plan—God's distinct call—for our lives, he will simply try to divert our attention and distract us from His Word and the call on our lives. Amaziah writes a letter to Jereboam explaining the danger of Amos and his prophetic judgments over Bethel. And he presents the message in such a way as to create concern in the king's mind.

Amaziah encourages Amos to take his prophet-for-profit peddling back to his homeland where he can make money, eat well, and have success. However, Amos was a common man, not a televangelist! Actually Amaziah just wants our farmer/prophet out of sight and mind. In doing so, this priest—who serves under God in some capacity—is rejecting God Himself! Bethel—like so many churches today—needed the truth to convict their hearts and bring them out of idolatry and religion to repentance, into a right relationship with God. By kicking out Amos, they were kicking God out of their temple!

Listen, beloved—you can't build a church on man-made constructs, or it will crumble. The only sure foundation to build on is Jesus Christ, Head of the Body the church.

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Listen to the deceitful, enticing way Amaziah addresses Amos:

Amos 7:12-13

Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there: But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

Here notice the humility and meekness of Amos in his response to Amaziah's encouragement to exit Bethel and go back home to be a successful seer.

Amos 7:14

(KJV) Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit:

(NIV) Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees.

Amos 7:15

(KJV) And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

(NIV) But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Amos was no professional prophet. Perhaps you and I are nothing religious or spiritual in the eyes of the world. But God's Word assures us that when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, there is a call on our lives to go and fulfill the Great Commission—in great ways, in small ways, in ordinary ways, in unique ways. But *always*:

2Timothy 4:2

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

Be encouraged!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland