

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 7:16-17

You say, "There is no God."

But God says,

**Psalm 53:1** *For the director of music. According to mahalath. A maskil of David. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.*

You say, "I'm not perfect, but I'm basically a good person."

But God says,

**Romans 3:23** *f or all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

You say, "I go to church, I tithe, I help people all the time."

But God says,

**Isaiah 64:6**  
*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

You say,

"God is merciful and I'm covered by His grace. What I do or don't do doesn't matter."

But God says,

**Galatians 6:7-8**  
*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

Need I continue?

I am going to make a radical, but thoroughly Biblical statement today:

*What doesn't matter* is any action, thought or opinion conceived in our darkened human hearts, rehearsed in our futile thoughts, and expressed through our words borne of idolatry—apart from the truth of God's Word. Read it for yourself in Proverbs 6:16-19 and Romans 1:18-32.

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: As a believer, how do you reconcile the disparity between your own opinions and ideas and what God's Word clearly says?

\*STUDY POINT: Read 1 John 4:1 and 2 Corinthians 10:5. What is the Scriptural process for "testing the spirits" and "taking captive every thought" as described in these two verses. Describe the process in your own words.

And listen to the eternal plight of a life built on faulty foundations:

**Matthew 7:26-27**

*But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*

**Psalm 1:4-6**

*Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.*

**Proverbs 14:12**

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

Today on The Teaching Room, we hear what the world, the enemy, the flesh, and the religious all say. We also hear what the Lord says. And be assured, beloved, that God's Word is the final word. Indeed,

**Matthew 24:35**

*Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

Last week we heard what our part-time prophet Amos said to Amaziah about his station in life, his call from God, and his obedient answer. This week, we do not hear a woe-is-me pity party soliloquy from Amos just because no one is watching or listening. No, we hear from *God*—the One who called Amos to go and deliver a prophetic warning message to his people. He was to deliver the very words of God. And deliver he did. In today's two verses, the guilty verdict over Amaziah, his temple Bethel, and King Jereboam's people grows teeth and becomes a harrowing sentence designed by our perfect God and Judge to fulfill His justice and restore His Name—which has been stained by the perpetual disobedience of the Israelites. Let's listen in:

**Amos 7:16**

*(KJV) Now therefore hear thou the word of the LORD: Thou sayest, Prophecy not against Israel, and drop not thy word against the house of Isaac.*

*(NIV) Now then, hear the word of the LORD. You say, "Do not prophesy against Israel, and stop preaching against the descendants of Isaac."*

Oh, no, has God been watching, even listening in to the conversations between Amos and Amaziah?

**Proverbs 15:3**

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: What portion of your day do you estimate your mind to be thinking God thoughts? Do you think it really matters? If God were to chime in to your daily thoughts and conversations, what sorts of content would He see and hear? What would you change to please Him?

\*STUDY POINT: Record two Old Testament passages in which the lead characters didn't believe God was watching. What was the outcome? What can we learn from these passages?

So, we have heard what Amaziah says.

But what does God say?

**Amos 7:17**

*(KJV) Therefore thus saith the LORD; Thy wife shall be an harlot in the city, and thy sons and thy daughters shall fall by the sword, and thy land shall be divided by line; and thou shalt die in a polluted land: and Israel shall surely go into captivity forth of his land.  
(NIV) "Therefore this is what the LORD says: "Your wife will become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and daughters will fall by the sword. Your land will be measured and divided up, and you yourself will die in a pagan country. And Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land."*

All we can know is that God's justice must be fulfilled, and that His punishment is always perfect for the crimes committed against Him. The good news we glean from this week's teaching is that God our Judge—through faith in Jesus alone—has become our Father. Our perfect Heavenly Father Who is love (1 John 4:8).

**Hebrews 12:5-6**

*And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*

Amen.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland