

# When God Calls The Common: Amos

## Amos 7:4-6

God is powerful in redemption. God is powerful in punishment. Today's three verses highlight His *power*.

When I was a new born-again believer, I thought that all Christians were awesome—that they all were on fire for Jesus. I desired fellowship with people who had an intimate relationship with God. I wanted to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (2 Peter 3:18). I was on fire for the Lord! However, I soon learned that much of the fellowship going on in church was surface level—between people who had never really surrendered to Christ or His Word.

*I don't want to be the same man a year from now that I am today!*

For God to affect real change in His beloved child, He must drill down deep into that person's heart with His Word:

### **Hebrews 4:12**

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

### **Amos 7:4**

*(KJV) Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part.*

*(NIV) This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: The Sovereign LORD was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land.*

A similar verse can be found in Deuteronomy:

### **Deuteronomy 32:22**

*For a fire will be kindled by my wrath, one that burns down to the realm of the dead below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains.*

*God goes deep!* He searches the depths of our hearts and minds in order to affect change:

### **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Though we cannot possibly understand the depravity—potential or actual—within us, our Creator God knows intimately our inner lives, and loves us anyway.

**Romans 5:8**

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

God can love us in any spiritual condition we find ourselves because He views us through the lens of Jesus' shed blood.

When we spend precious time with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to search down deep, and pray this prayer:

**Psalm 139:23-24**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

He will investigate our hearts if we ask Him to. Get up in the morning and first thing allow your God to take a look inside you through David's prayer. Our hearts become hardened by the deceitfulness of our sin (Hebrews 3:13). Before we know it, the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit has become inaudible.

**1Thessalonians 5:19** *Quench not the Spirit.*

To avoid this dangerous condition, regular time in God's presence in our prayer closet, as per Matthew 6:6, is essential.

In this second vision—the first being the vision of the locusts—Amos sees a consuming fire that destroys all upon the earth and deep down below the earth. Even the reservoirs of water beneath the ground are consumed by God's righteous inferno. God blesses completely and perfectly, and He punishes completely and perfectly. He knows what it will take to bring us to repentance. *He is to be feared.*

Remember at this point that Amos was perfectly selected by God to prophesy and warn the Israelites of God's coming judgment. He has compassion on His fellow farmers and citizens of the land. So, while God must fulfill His perfect justice and judge their evil deeds, they will hear through Amos God's great mercy. They are given one last opportunity to repent. By giving Amos this vision—which has not yet happened—the Israelites experience the love and mercy of God. Things can be different!

**\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION:** Can you recall a time when God sent you a warning through circumstances to turn from a dangerous act of the will—a sin—and you responded rightly? How did your obedience affect your future walk with God. Was there a time when you responded negatively to God? What happened next?

\*STUDY POINT: Find three instances in the Old Testament when God graciously warned His people before exacting judgment upon them. How did Israel respond in each case? What consequences resulted?

### **Amos 7:5**

*(KJV) Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small.*

*(NIV) Then I cried out, "Sovereign LORD, I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"*

Amos passionately intercedes here and points out to God that Jacob is small and weak and will not survive God's punishing wrath through this epic, destructive fire. Beloved, we are small dots on planet earth, amidst infinite galaxies, planets, and stars over which God reigns!

### **Psalm 8:3-4**

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?*

*We are small!*

Oh, but God's great love for us—His masterwork—is reflected through His Son Jesus and the cross. Even in the time of Amos, God's redemptive work through His Son looked back for such as would repent and receive God's forgiveness:

### **John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Today, as followers of Jesus, deep humility is the only response that will save us from future judgment and ruin.

### **Ecclesiastes 5:1-3**

*Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.*

**John 3:30** *He must increase, but I must decrease.*

### **Philippians 2:1-11**

*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or*

*vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Amos 7:6**

*(KJV) The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD.*

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

Amos intercedes. God hears. And as last week when God turns from sending the locusts, here He turns away from His punishment another day.

God is merciful.

~ Reverend Darren McClelland