

AMOS: FOR THEM & FOR US



The Week of July 3, 2022 Amos Conversation Guide

Intro Questions

- Did you think 10 years ago things would be as bad as they are today?
- How have we sinned against our fellow human beings?
- How have we disrespected and turned from God?
- Have you heard of the prophet Amos? What was his message?

Not So Famous Amos's Timely Words

Amos 7:14-15

So Amos answered Amaziah, "I was not a prophet or the son of a prophet; rather, I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore figs. But the Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

- Amos did not want to be famous; he was just a lowly shepherd and farmer. Why would God use the ordinary to do the extraordinary?
- Amos lived in the Southern Kingdom, Judah, but God called him to go to the Northern Kingdom, Israel. Judah and Israel had divided and were often at odds with each other. How did Amos going to preach a tough message to a tough crowd show a remarkable level of obedience?

Amos 2:6-8

*The Lord says:
I will not relent from punishing Israel
for three crimes, even four,
because they sell a righteous person for silver
and a needy person for a pair of sandals.*

*They trample the heads of the poor
on the dust of the ground
and obstruct the path of the needy.
A man and his father have sexual relations
with the same girl,
profaning my holy name.*

*They stretch out beside every altar
on garments taken as collateral,
and in the house of their God
they drink wine obtained through fines.*

- Make a list from this passage of how people in Israel were sinning against God and their neighbor. (Your Study Bible or Bible App may give you a clue on some of the more obscure references)
- How does our society and lives compare?

Amos 3:10 CSB

*The people are incapable of doing right—
this is the Lord's declaration—
those who store up violence and destruction
in their citadels.*

- What two things are they accused of in this verse? (look up citadel)
- In our society, do we have an inability to do right and the presence of violence and destruction in our “citadels”?

Amos 5:11 CSB

*Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and exact a grain tax from him,
you will never live in the houses of cut stone
you have built;
you will never drink the wine
from the lush vineyards
you have planted.*

- Make a list from this passage of how people in Israel were sinning against God and their neighbor. (Your Study Bible or Bible App may give you a clue on some of the more obscure references)
- How does our society and lives compare?

Amos 8:4-6 CSB

*Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and do away with the poor of the land,
asking, "When will the New Moon be over
so we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so we may market wheat?"*

*We can reduce the measure
while increasing the price
and cheat with dishonest scales.*

*We can buy the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and even sell the chaff!"*

- Make a list from this passage of how people in Israel were financially sinning against God and their neighbor. (and you thought inflation and shrinkflation were modern issues!)
- How does our society and lives compare?

Amos 9:11-12 CSB

*In that day
I will restore the fallen shelter of David:
I will repair its gaps,
restore its ruins,
and rebuild it as in the days of old,
so that they may possess
the remnant of Edom
and all the nations
that bear my name—
this is the declaration of the Lord; he will do this.*

- What did “in that day” mean in Amos’s day and what does that mean for us today as God’s people? (Check your Study Bible or Bible App)
- Part of God’s righting a corrupt society is restoring His design for how we should treat each other. Read Acts 2:42-46. How does the early church give us a portrait of a godly society?
- Read Romans 12:9-21. How does this description of relationships in the church give an antidote to the corrupt ways from our life before Christ?

Matthew 22:36-40 CSB

“Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

- The only hope for our society, our families, our marriages and our individual lives is found in the transforming work of Christ. What does Jesus tell this young man and each of us is the ultimate command to obey?
- What does Jesus tell us is a natural outflow of an intense love for God?
- Read 1 John 4:7-21. Who is the source of love? How does Christ’s sacrifice for us give us the ability to love God and others?

Next Steps

- It would be easy to look at the world today and be depressed and pessimistic. Memorize and meditate on John 16:33 and 1 John 4:4 instead of watching the news or listening to a radio show or podcast that focuses on what is wrong in the world.
- Love = time and focus. Love God this week by spending time in focusing in on prayer and Bible study.
- Love your neighbor (whoever God sets in your path—Good Samaritan story) by meeting a need out of selfless love.