



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series

Supports Session 2: Turn to God

Sermon Title: "God Can Use a 'Fool' like Me" (Amos 7:12-15)

Connection to Amos 4:1-13

God is pleased to select improbable people to call out and hold His people accountable. We must be willing to serve as God's representatives even if we feel unworthy.

Introduction/Opening

God is pleased to use unlikely people in His plan of redemption. He was pleased to use a sheep breeder from the hills near Tekoa and He is pleased to use us. Thankfully our grit and determination are not the keys to our work, but God's power and calling provides all we need.

When we surrendered to God's calling, we may feel incapable of completing the task, but will discover God's faithfulness as we follow His direction.

Outline

1. The Unlikely Outsider

- a. Amos was a shepherd and harvested fruit from sycamore trees, a food ingested by the poor in the land. He did not fit the mold of the school of prophets that gained their living by requiring gifts from God's people (7:14). Amos was an outsider, unlikely, unsuitable, and lacked experience and family lineage as a prophet.
- b. Amos said he was qualified because God had taken him from following the flock and sent him to prophesy to His people. As Enoch and Elijah were taken from the earth (Gen. 5:23, 2 Kings 2:11) so Amos was snatched by God from following the flock and sent on a divine mission. His divine urging was his qualification.
- c. Likewise, we may feel unqualified. We may wonder what qualifies us to speak on behalf of God.
- d. Like Amos, our qualification is in our salvation. And God is pleased to call us His children and friends and urges us to be His witnesses in a fallen, arrogant world. Our role is to simply tell what He has done for us in His Son, Jesus.
- e. According to the Paul, God is pleased to use the foolish to confound the wise, and the weak to amaze the strong (1 Cor. 1:27-28). Do you feel weak, unqualified? Good. God is very pleased to enlist you as a herald of His saving truth.

2. An Unwelcomed Message

- a. Amos contended with a false priest named Amaziah (7:10,12). Amaziah reported Amos as a troublemaker to King Jeroboam. Amaziah scolded Amos to return to his home in

Judah. Neither Jeroboam, Amaziah, or the people of Israel wanted to hear what Amos came to share. Amos said the people in general disregarded and silenced the prophets and Nazirites (2:11-12).

- b. We may encounter people who are not interested in the truth of the gospel.
- c. God will give us encouragement and we must persist with our testimonies. We cannot grow weary in our service (Gal. 6:9) and we must continue to faithfully share Jesus with others.

3. The Unstoppable Truth

- a. The prophecies of Amos were eventually recognized as truth. The prophecies of Amos that were unwelcome words of judgment were fulfilled. The unthinkable happened. God's chosen people who ignored Him were judged.
- b. The outcome of the ministry of Amos reminds us that God can use whomever He chooses to make a difference in this world.
- c. We may feel incapable of convincing a lost world of the message of truth we hold in our hearts. However, we discover God causes our testimony to ring true to those He is calling, and they respond to Him.
- d. So, the unlikely shepherd shared a message that has been recorded and shared through the ages. Feel unqualified? Join the club. God is pleased to use us as we proclaim the "foolishness of the cross" (1 Cor. 1:18).

Conclusion

We love stories about players who finally get some game time and make the most of it. We cheer them on and celebrate their one shining moment. In the same way, God invites us to get suited up so we can get in the game and faithfully share the precious truth of Jesus.

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