

Amos

God's Man

Text: Amos 1-9

Theme: Characteristics of God's man

I. The Character of Amos

i. HUMBLE

1. God gets the most use out of HUMBLE men and women. Amos was certainly convinced of his own shortcomings and his own inability. **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 sycamore fruit: And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel** (Amos 7:14-15).
2. Amos is the first prophet among the prophets of whom we have no pedigree. Isaiah was the son of Amoz, Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiah, Ezekiel was the son of Buzzi, Daniel was of royal blood, probably Hezekiah's grandson, Hosea was the son of Beeri, Joel was the son of Pethuel then we come to Amos who specifically designates himself as a nobody for God.
3. Moses is a great example of this transition. In Exodus 2:11 Moses realizes God's call on his life and is ready to set the world on fire. In his youthful zeal he goes out and kills an Egyptian, thinking this is the way God will use him. Exactly one chapter later in Exodus 3:11, forty years have passed since the day he thought he was ready. Moses now believed the task God had for him was impossible. The irony was that when he thought he wasn't ready was when he was ready. In Exodus 3:11 Moses gives excuse after excuse for not doing what God called him to do. In recognizing his own inability he was then able. In recognizing his own need, he was in a position to receive God's grace and power to get the job done. HUMILITY is simply recognizing who we really are, who God really is and our relationship to Him.
4. Solomon said he wasn't ready for the task in 1 Kings 3:7-10

ii. FAITHFUL

1. Faithfulness— **Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
2. Amos 1:1 **words of Amos, 1:3 Thus saith the Lord...**
 - a. Amos was FAITHFUL to the words he received from God, though hard words, he FAITHFULLY preached these words. God has blessed His words and any FAITHFULNESS to these words will result in God's blessing. The blessing of God is an effect of this FAITHFULNESS. In order to be faithful to the words of God you have to know the words of God. **2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God! Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with**

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every wind of doctrine. See also Hebrews 5:12-14 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13.

b. No record that Amos had any converts.

iii. COURAGEOUS

1. Unafraid of Opposition

a. The truth is NOT popular. You say, "Well if we present it this way more people will like it." Maybe more people will stick around longer if you change your presentation, but the fact remains that the truth is NOT popular. **John 15:18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.**

b. Amaziah the high Baalite priest in Bethel cites the authority of the king, but Amos says, "Look, my call is from GOD"

2. **Matt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

a. Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, tells King Jeroboam that Amos has conspired against him (Amos 7:10).

b. Amaziah tells Amos to go back to Judah (Amos 7:12).

c. Amos rebukes Amaziah with the word of God (Amos 7:14-17).

d. At one point Bethel had been the location where Elijah and Elisha dealt with the "sons of the prophets" (2 Kings 2:3).

e. Consider the words of Charles Wesley: *Shall I, to soothe the unholy throng, Soften Thy truth or smooth thy tongue, To gain earth's gilded toys, or flee The cross endured, my Lord, by Thee?*

II. The Call of Amos

i. GOD'S POWER

1. God uses nobodies

2. Our Calvinistic ideas about God's men. Elijah—a man of like passions as we are (James 5:17)

3. Amos was among the *herdmen* of Tekoa (Amos 1:1).

4. This position was not one of glory, but a job of a servant (Genesis 13:7-8; 1 Samuel 21:7). Amos was also a gatherer of sycamore fruit (Amos 7:14).

5. This is consistent with other God-called men.

a. Moses was on the backside of the desert when God called unto him a second time (Exodus 3:1-6).

b. Gideon was in the threshing floor when God called him (Judges 6:11-16).

c. David was with his "few sheep" when God called him (1 Samuel 16:11-13).

d. Elisha was plowing a field when God called him (1 Kings 19:19-20).

e. Simon and Andrew were casting a net when God called him (Matthew 4:18-19).

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- ii. **2 Sam 10:12 Be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the LORD do that which seemeth him good.**
- iii. GOD'S PLAN
 - 1. God has plans for whoever wants to take them up!
 - 2. By God Himself (Amos 7:15-16)
 - a. The Lord called Amos.
 - b. The Lord sent Amos.
 - c. The Lord gave Amos the message.
 - 3. What higher calling is there!
- iv. GOD'S PREPARATION
 - 1. just a farmer no formal training; He has no credentials
 - a. The secret PREPARATION for Amos is clear. He was no prophet, nor did he attend any of the credited seminaries or become a Jewish rock star in PREPARATION for his preaching. He PREPARED in the habitations of the shepherds and in the field.
 - b. Did you ever notice how great men of God often have children who have been raised in the spotlight, but cannot do near as much for the Lord? You might think that someone who is brought up in the limelight should know exactly how to deal with all the pressures, but it's seldom if ever the case. Character is developed in private before it is developed in public. These celebrities that get saved seem to always have trouble with sound doctrine. There is a tremendous lack of preparation in the words of God prior to being cast in the public eye.
 - c. God's PREPARATION is private before it is public. Jesus Christ spent thirty years PREPARING before his final three and half in public. Young men need to get this principal. The reason PREPARATION in public doesn't work is because men will learn how to **appear** righteous before they learn how to **be** righteous. They learn how to **appear** sanctified before they learn how to **be** sanctified. They will learn how to **appear** godly before the learn how to **be** godly. Matthew 6:4, 6, 18 identify this potential problem that the Jews would really struggle with.
 - d. Note: "It is important to observe that only he who has thus learned of God in the school of obscurity is likely to shine in the blaze of publicity"- taken from *Notes on the Minor Prophets* by H. A. Ironside page 142.