

2026-06-10 Points

Title: Standing Firm in God's Calling: Lessons from Amos the Prophet

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the prophet Amos's encounter with Amaziah the priest, emphasizing the importance of faithfully responding to God's calling regardless of opposition or personal inadequacy. The message challenges believers to move beyond comfortable Christianity and embrace authentic ministry that partners with the Holy Spirit rather than relying on human ability. The sermon warns against the dangers of self-indulgent religion that neglects justice for the poor and oppressed, drawing parallels between ancient Israel's corruption and contemporary Christian complacency. It emphasizes that true ministry flows from God's calling and empowerment, not from human credentials or popularity. The sermon concludes with prophetic warnings from Jesus about the end times, encouraging believers to remain faithful, aware, and actively serving rather than becoming alarmed or deceived.

Key Points:

- God calls ordinary people to extraordinary ministry, as demonstrated through Amos the shepherd
- Religious opposition often comes when God's truth confronts comfortable lifestyles and corrupt practices
- True ministry requires partnering with God through the Holy Spirit rather than relying on human talents alone
- The church is judged not only for personal sin but for how it treats the poor, needy, and marginalized
- Christians must be voices for truth in their generation, speaking with humility rather than arrogance
- Spiritual gifts are given so believers recognize their dependence on the Holy Spirit
- Faithfulness to God's calling matters more than popularity or acceptance
- Believers should anticipate Christ's return by staying faithful and preparing others, not by predicting dates
- The honeymoon phase of ministry eventually gives way to challenges that test genuine calling

- God's word remains true regardless of human acceptance or rejection

Scripture Reference:

- Amos 7:10-17 (primary focus)
- Amos 8:1-6
- Matthew 24 (Jesus's prophecies about the end times)
- Mark 13 (parallel account of Jesus's prophecies)
- Luke 21:5 (parallel account of Jesus's prophecies)
- Acts 3-4 (Peter and John's boldness)
- James (regarding asking for wisdom and being double-minded)

Stories:

- Amos confronting Amaziah the priest at Bethel, who told him to go back to Judah and stop prophesying
- Amos's background as a shepherd and keeper of sycamore fig trees before God called him
- The parable of throwing a rock into a pig pen - the one that gets hit squeals the loudest
- The story of two seminary graduates applying for the same church position, one with genuine experience versus one who kept starting over
- The priest playing golf who wanted to write down his curse words rather than speak them
- The preacher's grandfather building an 86-foot concrete silo before electricity using windmill power
- Peter and John being told not to speak in Jesus's name but refusing to be silent
- The Good Samaritan reference regarding who is our neighbor
- Farm sayings from the pastor's father about getting the burr out of your saddle and tail off the dashboard
- Ancient practices of winnowing wheat and dishonest merchants sweeping chaff into grain to cheat customers