**THE LION ROARS**

**A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF AMOS**

**(Hey Preacher, Go Home)**

Main Idea: Though the world will rise up against a true declaration of God’s Word against them, Christians must remember their commission and duty and be faithful to proclaim its message.

Amos 7:10 - 17 Lesson 12

Introduction – For 7 ½ chapters, Amos has prophesied his message of judgment against Israel and its surrounding nations. Up until now we haven’t heard any kind of a rebuttal against his sharp words, which is pretty remarkable, given the ungodly and idolatrous nature of his congregation. But one man has had enough and he notifies the king of Israel with exaggerated accusations and then confronts Amos personally to drive him out of town hoping to send him back to Judah with his tail tucked between his legs. But Amos was no hireling. Nor was he half-hearted in his service to God and he sets the record straight and maintains his righteous cause. Amos also sets a beautiful example for the Christian today who is facing opposition or persecution for his testimony. Let’s follow the story and pray for grace to take a stand for our convictions!

1. **AMAZIAH’S MESSAGES,** vs. 10 -13
   1. We have listened to God’s preacher (Amos the prophet) give his series of messages to the nations... now the preacher of Bethel, Amaziah, their priest to the calf god, has his own messages to deliver. This man probably had the care of the civil as well as religious matters in Bethel.
   2. His first message is to the king, Jeroboam. Vs. 10, 11
      1. “***Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel***:” In other words… Amos is at the religious center of Israel plotting against you! (Hmmm…. That’s a bit extreme but it’s exactly how the world acts today when they want to shut the mouth of preachers or anybody who is trying to promote what’s right).
      2. ***“The land is not able to bear all his words.*”** He’s saying that if he keeps up this preaching… the land… or the people… are going to revolt. They can’t take this constant prophesying and hate speeches Amos is spewing! *The land can’t bear his words… the Word of God.* Hey… courtrooms have taken down the Ten Commandments because the land couldn’t bear **HIS** Words. The government is trying to call *certain* subjects *hate crimes* if you speak negatively about them… *why???* Because *the land can’t bear God’s Words.* Churches are commonly preaching messages that have *very little* to do with the Word of God because they are afraid the people *won’t be able to bear God’s Word!*
      3. **“For thus Amos saith, Jeroboam shall die by the sword**, **and Israel shall surely be led away captive out of their own land.”** The third and fourth things Amaziah the priest of Bethel said to Jeroboam the king was… “*He’s saying you’re gonna die by the sword and Israel is going to be led away captive…”* Now… Amos had not said that Jeroboam would die by the sword. That was a stretch… although his son Zachariah did. Can you believe the world will stretch the truth and misrepresent the message of God!!? (Ha)!
   3. Amaziah’s second message is directly to Amos, vs. 12, 13
      1. He basically tells him “*HEY PREACHER… GET OUT OF TOWN… go back where you came from… don’t eat one more bite of our food! Preach to your own people; you don’t have any business preaching at Bethel!!! So… get outta our town!”*
      2. Satan hates the light of the truth especially where darkness has prevailed for years. Israel has waked in darkness far too long but Satan doesn’t give up without a fight. **John 3:19**  And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
2. **AMOS GIVES A CALCULATED RESPONSE,** vs. 14 – 17
   1. Many times, when Christians are provoked they will “*react”* with uncontrolled emotion. That’s the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit that produces “*temperance.”* To be *temperate*  is to allow God to control us when our emotions want to have their way. Temperance is more concerned with having the truth rather than having their own way.
   2. Amos carefully addresses each of Amaziah’s accusations removing distortions to establish the truth.
   3. Apparently, Amaziah thought Amos was a long-time prophet that just overstepped his territory and needed to be put in his place. But Amos was clear that he had always been a herdsman and one who went out and gathered *sycamore fruit* (a low-grade fig).
   4. He was just a common, ordinary blue-collar worker when God came and called him to preach His Word. He was letting Amaziah know “*I was just a common man working in the fields and GOD came to me and called me to His work. YOU didn’t call me to this work… GOD did. And YOU can’t un-call me! My calling came from above and nobody lower than God is going to get me to leave that calling!*
   5. Look at verse 12 again (Read it). It’s like Amaziah was saying, “*Hey, go make your living down in Judah, why have you come up here to practice your profession. Make your money somewhere else!* As if Amos was just in it for the money! Why would Amaziah think that? Because people who can be bought (like the priest Amaziah) have a hard time imagining that anyone else didn’t have a price as well. Thankfully, Amos couldn’t be bought! He didn’t *have a price* that would lure him *into* or *out of* God’s work!
   6. God help us not to serve *for what we can get out of it!* Help us to serve for what we have already been given! If it takes certain favorable circumstances for you to get involved in a ministry, trust me…. there are certain favorable circumstances that can lure you out of that ministry as well. Don’t be a man who can be bought by men. Be a man who understands that *I’ve been bought and paid for by Somebody else. I am not my own!*  Look at 1 Cor. 6:19, 20
   7. In Verses 16, 17 Amos is clear to Amaziah what the results of his stubbornness to the Word of God would be. What I like about what Amos says is that he didn’t preach a knee-jerk reaction sermon to Amaziah. “*How dare you talk to me like that!”* No… he just tells him because he wouldn’t listen to God’s Word there are some very grave consequences coming to your address!
   8. During the captivity, his wife would be treated like a harlot, his children would die by the sword, his inheritance would be divided up amongst the enemy and he would die in the land of captivity. Israel would without doubt be taken into captivity. Amos didn’t back down to Amaziah’s demands!
3. **IF GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO SOMETHING DON’T LET MEN DRAW YOU OUT OF IT**

‘The difference between a conviction and a preference, according to the U.S. Supreme Court.’ A preference is a very strong belief, held with great strength. You can give your entire life in a full-time way to the service of the preference, and can also give your entire material wealth in the name of the belief. You can also energetically proselytize others to your preference. You can also want to teach this belief to your children, and the Supreme Court may still rule that it is a preference. A preference is a strong belief, but a belief that you will change under the right circumstances. Circumstances such as: 1) peer pressure; 2) family pressure, 3) lawsuits, 4) jail, 5) threat of death. Would you die for your beliefs? A conviction is a belief that you will not change. Why? A man believes that his God requires it of him. Preferences aren't protected by the constitution. Convictions are. A conviction is something that you purpose in your heart (cf. Daniel 1, 2-3). Convictions on the inside will always show up on the outside, in a person's lifestyle. To violate a conviction would be a sin. Amos proved he was a man of conviction, not just living by personal preferences.

**Discuss:**

1. Have you ever faced similar scrutiny from someone when trying to speak the truth? What was your reaction to it? What could you have done differently in light of Amos’ actions to Amaziah?
2. In what ways did Amaziah misrepresent Amos and his message? What can we draw from this when trying to settle disputes?
3. Why are some people prone to attack the message of the preacher? Why do some preachers avoid certain passages and subjects when preaching to their congregations?
4. Would you be willing to examine your beliefs and see if they are mere preferences or true convictions?