

WHEN THE LORD ROARS: NOT A PROPHET, NOR THE SON OF A PROPHET

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“The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.”

—Amos 1:1 (ESV)

“I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs. 15 But the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

—Amos 7:14-15 (ESV)

FOUR DIFFICULTIES IN ANSWERING GOD’S CALL:

1. Amos is called _____ of his _____ .
 - a. Occupation 1: sheep breeder
 - b. Occupation 2: pincher of figs
 - c. Not his occupation: PROPHET
2. Amos is called to speak to _____ .
 - a. Israel and Judah are a dysfunctional family! (cf. 1 Kings 11:31-35; 1 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 10)
3. Amos is called to speak _____ culture.
 - a. **Culture was being enjoyed because of the wealth:** In 801 BC the Assyrians destroyed the capital of Aram (Damascus) causing Aram to go into a decline...which allowed Israel to assume control of this major trade route thus producing an abundance of wealth (in Israel and Judah), especially for the cities!¹
 - b. **Every one dislikes the guy who says, “it’s time to shut the party down.”**

1. Bruce E. Willoughby, “Amos, Book of,” ed. David Noel Freedman, *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (New York: Doubleday, 1992), 205.

4. Amos is _____.

a. *“I was no prophet, nor a prophet’s son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.” –Amos 7:14a (ESV)*

THE CALLING OF GOD TO “GO” IS DIFFICULT AND WILL ALWAYS BE DIFFICULT.

THREE THINGS THAT **WILL NOT** CONVINCING YOU TO GO LIKE AMOS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

We will only overcome our difficulties and go, if we have _____ the _____ in our _____.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

–2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

HOW?

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

–2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (ESV)

THE GOSPEL

“The choices you make that are against God and against others and against yourself are called SIN or trespasses or breaking God’s law. (1 John 3:4) Those sins separate you from God (Isaiah 59:2) and since God is the life giver and the sustainer of life (Job 33:4) your sin will result in eternal death for you (Romans 6:23a). But God loves you so much (John 3:16) So, He gave you a free gift, Jesus (Romans 6:23b). And the gift is this, Jesus took all your mistakes literally becoming your sin (2 Corinthians 5:21) and He died the death you deserve on a cross, so that you don’t have to die eternally, but you can have eternal life (Philippians 2:8). And all of that already happened, so that you in this moment—if you want can accept Jesus as your gift, and He will make your heart and your life new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

THE RESULT

We become God’s _____ . –2 Corinthians 5:20

We see the difficulties. But like Amos, we go. Nothing can stop us because we’ve had a real encounter with Jesus.

PRAYER CHALLENGE

Don’t pray that God will help you to go. Pray that the gospel will change your heart. Will make you a new creation; then nothing will be able to keep you from going into the difficulties like Amos.

