The Example of Amos - Amos 7

I. Introduction
   a. Leo’s Lesson: Do not love the world, but God so loved the world
   b. We should love the world of human souls as God does, without loving the world system that is the result of human pride and the support of human sinfulness.
   c. Amos knew how to do this.
      i. He was a prophet of God
      ii. During the divided kingdom period
      iii. In the reign of Jereboam II
      iv. The northern kingdom of Israel was
         1. Prosperous
         2. Expanding
         3. Self-satisfied
         4. Deep in sin and idolatry
   d. Amos 7 gives a touching description of
      i. Who Amos was
      ii. How much he loved the people of God
         1. What that love motivated him to do
         2. What that love cost him personally as a man of God who was in the world, but not of the world

II. KEY THOUGHT: Amos was a wonderful example of how the people of God love the world as God does, and are the salt and light of the world.

III. Exposition
   a. Amos’ Intercession
      i. Amos prays to avert disaster in Israel
         1. Locust swarms (7:1-3)
         2. Destructive fire (7:4-6)
         3. He is heartbroken for His people
         4. He prays for them
            a. They are wicked
            b. They deserve the punishment
            c. But they cannot survive the punishment they deserve
            d. So Amos begs for mercy
         5. God relents
         6. We cannot fully appreciate the rest of Amos’ work of prophecy if we don’t understand this about him
   ii. There is a judgment that prayer cannot avoid (7:7-9)
      1. God is bringing the plumb line
      2. What does not square up with His expectations will be destroyed
b. Amos’ Opposition
   i. Amaziah
      1. A false priest of Jeroboam I’s calf religion
   ii. His accusation (v. 10-11)
      1. Conspiracy
      2. Intolerable words
         a. Jeroboam shall die
         b. Israel shall be led captive
      3. True or false accusation?
         a. There was an “unless you repent” that went with that
         b. Wasn’t Amos the one who through prayer convinced God to spare Israel from two devastating judgments?
         c. Clearly it was not from pure orneriness that Amos was preaching judgment
   iii. His advice to Amos (v. 12-13)
      1. Leave
      2. Go to Judah
      3. You can make a good living there
      4. Never prophesy here again
      5. It’s the royal residence
      6. Totally secular
      7. Apparently God’s will has no consideration!
   c. Amos’ resolution
      i. I’m not doing this for my health
         1. I was not a prophet [by profession]
         2. Nor a son of the prophet [a trainee]
         3. I was a shepherd and tender of sycamores [fig trees that needed the fruit nipped to ripen faster]
      ii. God made me a prophet
         1. He gave me the job
         2. He gave me the words
         3. He gave the audience and location
      iii. More pronouncements of judgment
         1. God says prophesy in Israel
         2. You say, “Don’t prophesy in Israel”
         3. What should Amos do?
         4. He prophesies judgment on the one who would rebuke the prophet for prophesying judgment
            a. An unpleasant message
            b. But was it spoken from bitterness, resentment and hate?
            c. No, twice in this chapter Amos has personally interceded for Amaziah and his nation before God to spare them God’s judgment
IV. Application

a. We are to be the salt and the light
   i. Matt. 5:13-15
      1. Preserving
      2. Showing the way
   ii. The world needs us
      1. Praying for it – 1 Tim 2:1-4
         a. Like Amos or Moses (Num. 14:19)
         b. Are we heartbroken for our world?
         c. Not excusing the wicked
         d. But praying they will be spared and come to repentance
      2. Preaching to it
         a. Repent or perish
         b. 2 Pet 3:9-11

b. Sometimes our message will not be welcome (John 3:19-20; John 15:18-20)
   i. Our message is not any better than Amos’
      1. Our world is nearly as wicked
      2. And the ultimate judgment of the wicked that has been revealed in the gospel age is much worse than any threat Amos made
   ii. We may
      1. get false accusations, - Acts 17:6-7
      2. threats – Acts 4:16-18
      3. or helpful advice –
         a. Not here
         b. Not now
         c. Not too extreme
         d. Hurt your employment/advancement/career prospects
         e. Might offend someone
      4. We should offend just for the sake of offending
         a. That is selfish and prideful
         b. TEST: Are we broken hearted and praying for the souls of those we “offend” with the gospel?
   iii. All of which will be designed to influence us to be silent about Jesus Christ and the gospel
   iv. Who is your Amaziah? Telling you to stop being a Christian, or at least stop talking and acting like one.
   v. Will we be like Amos?
      1. I’m not a theologian,
      2. or an ordained minister,
      3. but God tells me this in His word
      4. and I am going to do it and teach it
   c. As disciples of Christ, is there any other choice?
i. Acts 4:19-20
ii. Acts 5:29

V. Conclusion
   a. The world deserves spiritual examples like Amaziah
      i. Self serving
      ii. Practicing and offering a religion of convenience
      iii. And a religion where God’s will isn’t even considered
   b. The world desperately needs spiritual examples like Amos
      i. Shining a clear light
      ii. Broken hearted over sin
      iii. Enough love for sinners to call them to repentance
      iv. Single-minded devotion to God
   c. Which will you be?
   d. INVITATION