

Amos 2:6-16 “Do you have a prideful heart?”

### Community Group Questions

1. Do you find that you follow your feelings more than wisdom from God’s Word? If so why?
2. Do you spend time reminding yourself what God has done for you?
3. In what areas of life do you feel you struggle with pride?
4. Have you every experienced a time in which your pride has reaped a consequence?

Last week we started our study of the OT book of Amos:

Amos=burden bearer- Was a prophet & shepherd from Tekoa that brought the message of the Lord in mid 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. He delivered this message to the northern tribes of Israel. I stated the Big Idea we are going to deal with is a question “*Where is your heart?*” and we are looking at doing a 3 month spiritual EKG on our hearts. Last week we asked ourselves “Is my heart selfish?” by looking at the neighbors of Israel. After seeing their 7 neighbors rebuked Israel though they were off the hook because there were 7 rebukes and biblically speaking 7 is the number of completion. But not a chance, the message that Amos has is from God for His people and the first heart issue that will be dealt with is PRIDE.

It is suggested by many that PRIDE is at the root of most if not all sins. If we go back to the first sin it was the sin of Lucifer and it was the sin of pride. *Ezekiel 28:17 “Your heart was proud because of your beauty”* God said to Lucifer. Then we see the serpent appeal to the pride of Adam and Eve...you will be like God.

The Scriptures speak much about pride so it is no surprise that it is a pretty common struggle for most people.

Think about it, even when we observe children what are some of the things they say...

“I am better than you at...”

“I have this or that”

“I am going here or there”

“My dad can beat up your dad”

We laugh...but unfortunately although we may not say statements like that anymore we may think things like that or try to advance in areas of life so we can prove things like that.

Others may not hide it so well and you know who they are...they are your friends on facebook that take every opportunity to show us all how, generous they are, smart their kids are, the cool stuff they have, how they excel in whatever venture they pursue and the list goes on.

So today we are going to learn four things about a prideful heart from Amos' message to Israel.

### **A prideful heart...**

Vrs 6-8 **listens to its feelings.** Israel was oppressed by its neighbors, atrocities happened to them. But Amos rebukes them because they are guilty of doing the same thing in return. Like anyone else their first impulse was to hurt others because they have been hurt.

Israel's prideful heart in this situation is saying “because they did this us, we can pay them back” or “this is how I feel so I must be justified in doing this.

Today...Not only do we listen to how we feel we are encouraged to listen to how we feel.

Here is what happens when we listen to our feelings, we...

Vrs 6b-7 Fall to greed

Vrs 7-Fall to perversion

Vrs 8- Fall to blasphemy

So what should we do?

If you have a prideful heart you need to listen to God's Word and not your own feelings. *Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.* In contrast Jesus said His words are words of life in John 6:63

Next we will lean that..

**Vrs 9-11 A prideful heart forgets the truth.**

Remember this was a time of prosperity and anytime people prosper there is going to be an open door for pride to walk in. So Amos reminds them of the truth of what God has done for them and in this case it consists of 6 things.

1. Vrs 9a Destroyed their enemies
2. Vrs 9b Removed the threat of enemies "whose height"
3. Vrs 10 Delivered them from slavery
4. Vrs 10 Led them in the wilderness
5. Vrs 10 Brought them into the promise land
6. Vrs 11 Gave them leaders

Vrs 11 "is it not indeed" that is the truth Israel

Apparently Israel needed some reminders because they forgot the truth. What about you? Do you forget the work of the Lord in your life? Is your prideful heart getting in the way of you realizing it is not you but it is Him who does the work.

*Carl Gustav Jung was a Swiss Psychiatrist that said "Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune."*

What is out of tune when we are prideful is that we forget the truth.

*So we needed to be reminded of the truth...Let me tell you the truth about your life...*

- You were created by Jesus
- You are loved by Jesus
- You were saved by Jesus GOSPEL
- You were gifted by Jesus (talk about spiritual gifts & abilities and talents)
- All good things come from Jesus

So that being the truth, who should get the glory and credit for anything you accomplish in life? Yup Jesus

So what should we do?

*If you have a prideful heart you need to remember the truth.*

But pride gets uglier because it affects others.

**Vrs 12 A prideful heart brings others down.**

The Nazarites and the prophets were the righteous who were bringing the message of God and living lives that were pleasing to God and the people of Israel were annoyed by them and started to attack the Godly in order to bring them down.

In pride, they did not want others to be better than them so they oppressed and attacked people that were doing the right thing.

One of the saddest displays of pride is when it attacks others. It is one thing to think very highly of yourself but it is a whole new form of sin that motivates you to try to take others down.

Someone is doing well in an area that you desire to do well at so you attack them...

- Maybe you attack their character

- Maybe you attack their accomplishments
- Maybe you attack their motives
- Maybe you want them to fail

But your goal is bring them down because of your pride, you want what they have, you want to be what they are, you want the recognition they get.

Not only do prideful people bring others down they also look down on others.

CS Lewis said in Mere Christianity *“A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something that is above you.”*

So what should we do?

*If you have a prideful heart you need to look up to the Lord and build others up.* Did you ever notice that people who are filled with pride have the hardest time building others up?

Finally in this passage we learn that...

**Vrs 13-16 A prideful heart will reap consequences.**

Vrs 13 God will bring them down

Pro 6:16-19 God hates pride. Beware God hates pride and you will be brought down.

Vrs 14-15 You will eventually become unable to do what you were once able to do

Vrs 16 You will eventually be humiliated

*The 19<sup>th</sup> century British poet Emily Bronte’ said “Proud people breed sad sorrows for themselves”*

*If you have a prideful heart on this point you need to take heed and first realize there will be consequences and if you have already experienced consequences you need to learn from them.*