

Amos Part 3 A Responsible Heart 3:1-14

Community Group Questions

1. What are some things in your life that show other people that you are a Christian?
2. How much time per week do you spend in God's Word?
3. Do you feel like you have ever put something before (a person, job, hobby etc) God and He took that away from you?
4. What are the spiritual responsibilities you are neglecting?
5. What do you need to do to change that?

Remember your first taste of responsibility? Mine was a paper route. Sold subscriptions, Delivered papers, Lost subscriptions, Was afraid to tell anyone, paid for the papers out of my earnings and eventually was doing the paper route for free.

Responsible- having an obligation to do something.

Today we are going to look at Amos 3 and see what the Prophet's message is concerning the sins of Israel and in this passage he deals with their responsibility. To go along with our Big Idea for the series "Where is your heart?" I would like us to ask ourselves this question **"Do I have a spiritually responsible heart?"** When it came to things of the Lord Israel didn't.

In regards to the things of the Lord we are going to learn what a responsible heart looks like and what happens when we fail to be responsible.

Vrs 1-2 Israel had God's His Word, were God's people so therefore they were accountable to God. But let's look a little closer.

A Spiritually Responsible Heart...

-Looks like its owner- Israel were His people but they looked nothing like His people, How do you look, when people see you do they know you belong to God? First let me clarify...How do you become one of God's people? **GOSPEL**

Now that you belong to God what are your responsibilities as a believer?

-Uses God's Word as its guide "hear this word" Amos said to Israel. As people of God the highest court we answer to is the Word of God. So what does it say about how we act? A lot but to sum it up
1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*The BKC states on this verse "Peter closed this portion of his letter of encouragement with a moving exhortation for his readers to practice holiness. He reminded them that, in contrast with the disobedient who are destined for destruction, they were a **chosen people**. Peter again echoed the Old Testament, specifically Isaiah 43:20. "Chosen people," which used to apply only to Israel, was now used of both Jewish and Gentile believers. The responsibility once solely trusted to the nation of Israel has now, during this Age of Grace, been given to the church.*

So our calling is to follow the Word so other people see Jesus and how great He is.

-Is accountable to its owner

When we are responsible for something it suggests that we are accountable to someone for it. And in this case Israel sinned and are accountable to the Lord for it, we already know from last week they were guilty of PRIDE and as we continue to study this book we will see other sins they were guilty of.

Because they were God's people they had a responsibility to act like God's people and if they didn't there will be punishment.

But what about now, does God punish believers in Christ?
 When we define Punish *meaning inflict a penalty or sanction on someone as retribution for an offense*, it reminds us of what happened on behalf of believers.

Isaiah 53:5 "But He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement(punishment) that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed"

So Christ was punished on our behalf so we don't get punished. So what can we expect when we sin.

Discipline- the practice of training people to obey rules or a code of behavior.

Which brings us to our next point **failed responsibility** and verses 3-10 teach us about the results of that.

**Failed spiritual responsibility...
has natural consequences. Vrs 3-6**

In a sense God is saying to Israel "Duh" you think you can live like this and everything go your way. I constantly say to people I talk with..."you expect God to bless you or things to go well for you but you are not listening to Him?" Sometimes I feel like saying "Duh"

Do you realize you can't live a life of sin and come out unscathed?

has warnings vrs 7-8 The Lord is saying I give fair warnings and I will have mercy but eventually enough is enough. Remember "*for 3 transgressions and for 4 I will not revoke*"

Many times the heart of why we fail isn't that we made a mistake...it is that when we continue to do the wrong thing and we receive warnings that we should not be doing those things but we ignore them and our hearts become hard and irresponsible.

will be judged vrs 9-10 we can't continue to sin and expect God to turn a blind eye.

Amos is calling out to Israel's enemies and saying look at Israel and what happens when they are spiritually irresponsible and continue to sin against the Lord. Israel was responsible and their enemies knew that.

You see that often times in life the things that we focus the most on are the things that are competing with God the most. When that happens those things become idols in our life.

Tim Keller author and pastor said "Sin isn't only doing bad things, it is more fundamentally making good things into ultimate things. Sin is building your life and meaning on anything, even a very good thing, more than on God. Whatever we build our life on will drive us and enslave us. Sin is primarily idolatry."

The judgment on Israel was that they were **irresponsible in spiritual things**. Because they were responsible in other things, God not only knew they were capable, He also knew that these things were more important to them than He was. So He judged them in those areas

Here are the areas of responsibility that Israel was focused on and here is how God used them in judgment.

Security is threatened vrs 11-12- Israel had a good military and as we learned last week had victory over many of their enemies.

Remember the pride issues...You think you are secure? Well I am going to allow your enemies to take you over. And as verse 12 reminds them...you think you are going to escape and somehow come out clean, sorry it will be like a shepherd trying to rescue a lamb already eaten by a lion.

Vrs 13-14 Religion destroyed- One of the main problems with God's people is they had a form of godliness but their hearts were far from

God. They felt good about themselves and they looked good because they were practicing religion. Bethel was the place of the Golden Calf

You think you are righteous? Well I am going to bring down your places of worship

Vrs 15 Loss of material possessions -A time of prosperity for Israel and they were enjoying it but apparently not using it for the work of the Lord or giving thanks to God for it.

You think you are successful and your money and stuff make you important? I am going to take those things away.

They were spending so much time on their responsibilities that they neglected their spiritual responsibilities. They were avoiding having a spiritually responsible heart.

Author Richard Bach said "The best way to avoid responsibility is to say, 'I've got responsibilities.'"

Maybe that is you when it comes to spiritual responsibilities. I would go to church if I just had time, I would read the Bible or pray but my day is so hectic, I would teach my kids about the Lord but I don't know much myself. I would serve if I have time, I would give if I had the money etc.

Or maybe its responsibilities that you find the most security in, like Israel, strong military, outward religion and material wealth. Maybe you find an unhealthy amount of comfort in...

Money-Title-Accomplishments-Relationships-hobbies-leisure-

Those responsibilities have consumed your life and when it comes to spiritual responsibilities you fall short because those other things get in the way or make you feel good.

God's desire for your heart is to be spiritually responsible.