

Amos Part 8 "Is your heart concerned?"

Community Group Questions

1. Do you have any unbelievers in your life that you consistently pray for?
2. Have you ever tried to tell someone about the Gospel but it did not go well?
3. Do you have Christian friends in your life that hold you accountable?
4. Have you ever tried to point out sin in another Christian's life and it did not go well?

We are entering a section of Amos in which there are 5 visions that Amos is given. Today we are looking at 3 of them.

The first two visions are about God's judgment and the 3rd vision is about God's standard.

The two areas of concern we are going to look at today are...Amos' concern that the people of Israel will be judged and God's concern that His people are not righteous.

So going along with our big idea "where is your heart?" the question we want to answer today...*"Is my heart concerned?"*

We should be concerned about the coming judgment on all people and concerned about the personal righteousness of fellow believers.

Are you concerned for others about the coming judgment?

In verse 1-6 we have two visions that are really one in the same. **Vrs 1-6** And both have the same flow...God states to Amos that there will be judgment (by locusts by fire), Amos appeals to the Lord and the Lord relents.

The truth of the Scriptures is that every person with eventually stand in the presence of God in Judgment. It states in *Hebrew 9:27* "It is appointed to all people to die once and after that face judgment"

The GOSPEL (talking with a small group of boys at Kids Club about sin being paid for)

Amos had a concern for the people of Israel because judgment was coming. Do you have a concern that everyone you know will stand in judgment? What are you doing about it?

There are a few common responses..

1. **Worry**...Oh no this is going to be terrible.
2. **Voice concern in ineffective ways.** Guy on the street in St. Augustine (slide)
3. **Ignore it**..."I am concerned but...what are you gonna do?"
4. **Deny it**...yeah I believe in heaven and hell and that I am going to heaven but I may be wrong or God will change His mind, He won't allow that person to be in hell for eternity
5. **Pray**- Amos' way...Intercessory prayer

An intercessor is one that goes between...we see in verses 2 & 5 Amos says "Oh Lord God...please cease"

Amos's deep concern led him to fall to his knees in an appeal to God believing that God would listen.

You may let people know that judgment is immanent and they may laugh or mock you but prayer is what changes them. *J. Sidlow Baxter said "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons; but they are helpless against our prayers."*

Amos had good reason not to pray from them...God was displeased with them and they were stubborn and didn't listen. So the trap he could have fell into was hating them or just not caring.

Are there people like that in your life...you find it very hard to like them and even harder to have a concern for them? Maybe you spend more time talking about them to other people than talking to God about them.

Leonard Ravenhill said "Notice, we never pray for people we gossip about, and we never gossip about the people we pray for! Prayer is a great deterrent"

How can we develop a concern for others and start to pray for them?

1. Remember you were like them (maybe not exactly)
2. Remember God loves them too.
3. Remember praying will change how you feel about them.

Someone once said... "Your healing process begins when you FORGIVE those who have wronged you, LOVE those who hate you, and PRAY for those who prey on you."

4. Remember God listens.

--Andrew Murray said "Faith in a prayer-hearing God will make a prayer-loving Christian"

A helpful example in the Scriptures is in Col 4:2-6 in which Paul asks for prayers for "open doors" to share the Word.

The second concern we will see in the passage is God having a concern for the personal righteousness of His people.

Are you concerned for the personal righteousness of fellow believers? Vrs 7-9

The 3rd vision was God revealing the "plumb line" which is an illustration of God's upright standards.

God is the standard giver and his standards are righteous. His concern is that we live righteously and as His people we should be concerned about one another living righteously.

This is something that our society has a problem with and the reason why is because no one wants people "up in their business". We only want people to be concerned for us when something bad happens or

we need something but when it comes to personal morality or righteousness...we think it is no ones business but my own.

Then it turns into Christians believing that if we have a concern about the personal righteousness of another believer we should not voice that concern to them and if we do we are being judgmental.

How do we communicate our concern for the personal righteousness of fellow believers the Godly way?

-Teach what God's standards are (the plumb line) This is where Biblical teaching is so important. From the Bible we know what pleases God and what displeases God. As Christians we should know the Word so we can teach others the Word. Remember parents teach your children...remember married couples teach your spouses, remember older men teach younger men, older women teach younger women, friends teach friends.

When you love people and you love God you will teach others about His Word. This is preventative maintenance.

-Hold one another accountable. Proverbs 17:17 Iron Sharpens Iron 1 Cor. 5:12 Get into relationships with other believers in which you can hold one another accountable. Share prayer requests, share burdens and issues and struggles.

-Watch your own life-be an example. So many times we spend time watching the lives of other people not in a negative way but in a concerned way.

In 1 Timothy 4:16 "watch your own life" because as a pastor he was always watching the lives of others and the trap we can fall into is having a savior complex, thinking we need to be the ones to get others

on track. Remember you should be ***concerned for them not consumed by them.***

-Don't be hypocritical-*Romans 2:3 "you judge those who practice such things yet do them yourselves"* Be wise about voicing your concern to another if you are still stuck in that sin. Remember Jesus said get the log out of your own eye before you try to remove the speck out of someone else's.

-Have Grace- Some people will say..."doesn't it anger you that so many Christians don't try to live righteously?" Yes but it angers me more to see Christians not extending grace toward them. I am not their judge and guess what their judge and my judge extends grace.

Andrew Wommack in his book The Nature of God talks about treating other Christians with grace and he states that when an unbeliever walks into church with blaring sins in their life our response is "God loves you" which is great. But when a believer has blaring sins most Christians don't apply the same type of grace to them.

In our desire to see our fellow believers live righteously we must not forget to have GRACE because we are all at different places in our spiritual lives.

Is your heart concerned?