

What Can “I” do?... Whatever God Calls you to Do.

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Introduction:

A. Let me tell you of a time when the rich got richer and the poor became poorer.

1. Let me tell you of a time when the poor were killed in the street for fun and justice went unheard.
2. Let me tell you of a season when the majority was quiet because they had become too comfortable and complacent.
3. Let me tell you a story about an ordinary man, called by God, who was the forerunner of a movement that resulted in judgment upon not just 1 nation, but several nations.

B. If you think I’m talking about something happening today, you are wrong.

1. I’m actually talking about a Middle-Eastern man named Amos.
2. Amos was an ordinary person that God called to be a Prophet.
3. **A prophet is an ordinary person who has been irresistibly grasped by the Word of God.**
 - a. God uses prophets to proclaim His Word for that time and that season.
 - b. People can be used in “prophecy” and not be a prophet.
 - c. Just like you can preach a sermon and not be a pastor.
 - d. Prophets are people that God has set aside to bring a MESSAGE to a group of people or nation.

C. What I want to show you from today's passage isn't so much for you to be called to be a prophet.

1. What I want you to hear today is the importance of ordinary people who are used by God.
2. Maybe you are looking around, listening, and wondering "What can I do?"
3. The answer is, "Whatever God wants".
4. **If God is in it, nothing is impossible.**
5. **If God is against, nothing is possible.**

So today, turn to the Old Testament book of Amos. Amos is in the middle of several books named after prophets. Amos maybe called a minor prophet, but not because it isn't important but because of the books size (9 chapters). But don't feel bad if you can't find it easily or have never read it. That's why you can follow along on the YouVersion Bible app and on the screens.

Amos 1:1–2 (CSB)

The words of Amos, who was one of the sheep breeders from Tekoa—what he saw regarding Israel in the days of King Uzziah of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

²He said:

The LORD roars from Zion
and makes his voice heard from Jerusalem;
the pastures of the shepherds mourn,
and the summit of Carmel withers.

Amos 7:14–15 (CSB)

¹⁴So Amos answered Amaziah, "I was not a prophet or the son of a prophet; rather, I was a herdsman, and I took care of sycamore figs. ¹⁵But

the LORD took me from following the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' "

1. Who is Amos?

A. Amos became a prophet sometime during the end of King Jeroboam II's 40-year reign as king.

1. These were prosperous days for Israel according to 2 King 14:23-29 and Amos 6.

2. People had become wealthier and success was easier than at other times.

3. These were not good days morally, but they were good days economically.

a. In fact, morality and true religion were absolute jokes.

b. It seems almost everyone was corrupt, but especially the king, his leaders, the religious leaders, and the wealthy.

4. Good times is not proof that God approves of everything going on!

a. In fact, God was growing more and more angry at Israel and the surrounding nations.

b. **God only puts up with sin for so long.**

c. Eventually, God reaches a point when judgment must be unleashed.

1. It happened in the days of Noah and the Flood.

2. It happened at Sodom and Gomorrah.

3. It happened with Israel and the Exile.

4. It will happen someday in the future and is described in Revelation.

B. But it is God's pattern to warn people before He sends judgment.

1. God did this with Noah.
2. God did this to Pharaoh in Egypt.
3. God did this through the Prophets.
4. God did this through Jesus and the Revelation.
5. 'The prophet's word is a scream in the night. While the world is at ease and asleep, the prophet feels the blast from heaven' (Heschel, p. 16).¹

C. This is when God called an unknown man named Amos to share a word with Israel his neighbors to the North.

1. Amos lived in the southern kingdom called Judah, minding his own business.
2. In fact, Amos was a lot like David who went before him because his primary profession involved sheep and agriculture.
3. **Amos is not a prophet or a son of a prophet.**
 - a. Ministry didn't run in the family, sheep did.
 - b. He hadn't gone to Bible school.
 - c. He couldn't have been a priest.
 - d. Amos was an ORDINARY person.
4. Then, one day, the Lord called and placed a Word in His heart.
 - a. A Word that was meant to be shared with many people regarding God's plans of upcoming judgment.
 - b. Amos went from shepherd to prophet almost overnight.

D. Did God have other people he could have used?

1. Of course:
2. He had a whole group of people who were professionals.

¹ David A. Hubbard, [*Joel and Amos: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 25, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1989), 118.

3. The priests were raised from the womb to be a priest.
4. The temple servants were raised to serve the temple.
5. God had professionals he could have called but they were too busy, too sinful, and too distracted.
6. Instead, God called a man from the back 40 to be His Prophet.

2. The Prophet's message was a message of judgment.

A. If you are like me, you haven't read the Book of Amos lately.

1. Amos is a book announcing God's judgement upon Israel and the surrounding nations.

2. What is interesting is that God's judgment is because of the injustice these nations had committed against each other.

- a. Damascus and Syria would experience judgment because they "threshed" without mercy the people of Gilead.

- b. Gaza and Tyre would experience judgment because they exiled, without mercy, all of the people of Edom.

- c. Edom would be punished because they killed their "brother", refused compassion, and harbored rage.

- d. The Ammonites would be judge because they "ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their territory".

3. These themes are not limited to the Prophecy of Amos.

- a. In fact, Amos is the first of the prophets of that day.

- b. The prophets to follow, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and others would all proclaim similar messages, but Amos was the first.

c. Amos was the first prophet of this time to go and proclaim, in the name of the Lord, that Injustice deserves Judgment.

d. Sin has a price.

B. The Message of Amos is that God cares for people and that mistreating people brings God's judgment.

1. One prophet, Ezekiel, wrote that "God does not delight in the death of the wicked but desires for everyone to repent and to be saved".

2. Think of this: **If God does not delight in the death of the wicked, how much more is He grieved over the death of the innocent, helpless, the hopeless, and the oppressed?**

a. This is why, throughout the Old Testament, God shows great concern for the orphan and widow.

b. This is why the New Testament book of James says that true and faultless religion, is the one that cares for the orphan and widow.

3. Right now, the Devil is whispering in your ear "Pastor's being political."

a. But I haven't said anything about our nation's current situation, have I?

b. So far, I have only read and referred to Scripture.

c. **The Devil wants to make Justice a political issue when it is really a prophetic issue.**

d. Justice is a God issue, a Covenant issue, a Grace issue.

C. Jesus proclaimed the requirement to "Love your Neighbor as yourself".

1. We have said "Do unto Others" is the Golden Rule, but Jesus said it was part of the Greatest Commandment.

2. I declare that the same God who took issue with injustice, falsehood, and greed in Israel's day is the same God who takes issue with injustice, falsehood, and greed in our day as well.

3. Know that the judgments foretold in Revelation are not arbitrary acts of violence by God upon humanity but acts of judgment for the many sins of the world.

4. Someday, I don't know the day or the hour, our world will stand before God and give account for our actions, both good and evil.

3. That leads to the ultimate question: What can I do?

A. You can do whatever God asks you to do?

1. That is the most truthful answer I can give you.

2. I'm not going to tell you that you can be a prophet if God doesn't call you.

a. If God doesn't call you to be a pastor, don't you dare try.

b. If God doesn't tell you to speak, don't do it.

c. If you don't have a word from God, then shut up.

3. The world does not need our un-prayed over opinions.

a. What our world needs is men and women, like you, who have prayed and sought God and have been given something to say.

b. One theologian says: Amos' ministry stemmed not so much from the fact that he had grasped the word, as that the word has grasped him—and irresistibly.²

c. It isn't about you getting a thought, or opinion, or some facts and then telling the world about it.

². Ibid

d. This all about God getting ahold of you in such a way that He completely changes and captivates your life.

e. So what can you do today?

B. What you can do is:

1. Be the Mom God has called and created you to be.

a. Those kids are not your kids by accident.

b. God gave you those kids through birth, or adoption, or through marriage.

c. They need you to be a Spirit empowered woman and mother.

2. Be the spouse God called you to be.

3. Be the employee God called you to be.

C. If God leaves you in the fields, so to speak, stay there and be the best.

1. If God calls you out of that line of work to be a prophet, an advocate, a deacon, a pastor, or whatever, then do and be what God called you to be.

2. But don't buy the lie that God can't or won't use you.

3. You are just as valuable in God's eyes as anybody else.

D. That's why, as we will see in Amos, that God takes seriously our treatment of others.

1. Every man and woman were made in the Image of God.

2. Jesus died so that every person would have the opportunity to be saved, redeemed, and loved.

3. Jesus takes seriously your hurt and pain.

4. In a world that seems to be on fire, with chaos everywhere, what can I do?

A. If you are brand new to Christianity, and to church, and to this whole thing, let me tell you I'm super proud of you for being here today or watching this online.

1. And the most important thing you can do is to believe this: Jesus loves you.

a. It doesn't matter what you have done.

b. It doesn't matter how rough or bad you have been.

c. It doesn't matter what you did this morning or this weekend.

d. Jesus loves you.

2. That's why you are here today hearing this message.

a. Yes, judgment is scary.

b. Yes, this is some heavy stuff.

c. But you know what is stronger than Covid-19, angry rioters, earthquakes, layoffs, divorces, and struggling teens?

d. Jesus' love for you is stronger than all of these things.

3. So if you are new today, the most important thing you can do is to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and to help you walk this thing out.

4. You don't have to know it all or have it all put together.

5. That comes later and over time.

6. Jesus loves you, and we do too.

B. For those who are raising families, working jobs, and trying to manage the chaos:

1. What you can do is be the best spouse, parent, and you can be.

- a. Pray like you have never before.
- b. Worship with more intensity than ever before.
- c. Serve like never before.
- d. Don't give in to the Spirit of fear and chaos that is going around us.

2. I've pastored long enough to recognize seasons when people are under attack.

- a. Right now, marriages are under attack (so if you are struggling at home, you are in good company).
- b. Right now, people are on edge and cranky.
- c. Right now, I know you are not trying to give into the fear and the depression but it is so hard right now.

3. This is not the time to give up.

- a. Now is not the time to quit.
- b. Now is the time to hear from God and to do what He has called you to do.
- c. The same God who calls unknown people like Amos out of the workplace to be a prophet is the same God you can call stay-at-home moms, mechanics, truck drivers, school teachers, and farmers to be people of power and authority.
- d. So don't quit and don't give up.

C. For those of you who are in a season of life where you:

- 1. Are more spiritually mature, you've raised your family, and maybe you are even retired.
- 2. Now is the time to find your prayer closet and to make room there again.

3. Now is the time to pray in the Spirit for those in need of healing, wisdom, and discernment.

4. Now is the time to cheer on the Joshua's fighting the battles.

5. Now is the time to be the man or woman of God He has called and created you to be.

What Can I Do? Whatever God calls you to Do!

The prophets were more eloquent. They prayed that their tongues would stick to the roof of their mouths if they didn't have a word from God to say.