

## THE NOT SO FAMOUS AMOS

### The Prophet Nobody Wanted To Listen To

- ✓ The Backstory  
Amos 1:1 & 7:14-15/ 2 Kings 14:23-29/ 2 Chronicles 26:1-15
- ✓ Seven **Judgments** And One Big Surprise  
Amos 1:1 – 2:16
- ✓ Two **Sermons** No One Wanted To Hear  
Amos 3:1 – 6:14
- ✓ Five **Word-Pictures** No One Wanted To See  
Amos 7:1 – 9:10
- ✓ The **Ending** No One Saw Coming  
Amos 9:11-15

### Lessons To Take Home

- (1) If I'm not right with **others**, I can't be right with **God**.  
Matthew 22:34-40 & Luke 10:25-37/ 1 John 4:19-21
- (2) Social **justice** matters.  
Amos 2:6-7, 4:1-3, 5:11-15, 5:23-24, 8:4-7/ Leviticus 23:22/ Deuteronomy 15:11 & 24:14  
Proverbs 14:31/ Proverbs 21:13/ Proverbs 29:7/ Proverbs 31:9/ 1 John 3:16-18
- (3) We are **blessed** to be a **blessing**.  
Genesis 12:1-3/ 1 Timothy 6:17-19/ 2 Corinthians 9:10-11
- (4) God will mess up our **present** to **guarantee** our future.  
Amos 4:6-12/ 2 Corinthians 12:7-10/ Hebrews 12:6-13

## Food for Thought

For the week of March 18, 2012

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

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1. Social justice still matters to God as shown by the 300 verses on it in the Bible. Proverbs contains a lot of practical advice on how to relate to the poor. What advice do you find in each of the following passages and what are some of the "benefits" we'll experience when we follow that advice?

### Proverbs 14:20-21

The poor are shunned even by their neighbors,  
but the rich have many friends.

[21] He who despises his neighbor sins,  
but blessed is he who is kind to the needy. [NIV]

### Proverbs 19:17

He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord,  
and he will reward him for what he has done. [NIV]

### Proverbs 28:27

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing,  
but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses. [NIV]

### Proverbs 31:8-9

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,  
for the rights of all who are destitute.

[9] Speak up and judge fairly;  
defend the rights of the poor and needy." [NIV]

2. We heard this weekend how God expected the Israelites to take care of the physical needs of their own people. During his ministry, Jesus was concerned not only with the physical needs of people but also their spiritual needs as well. Read Matthew 9:1-8 to see how Jesus met this man's needs on both levels and then answer the following questions.

### Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. [2] Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

[3] At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

[4] Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? [5] Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? [6] But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." [7] And the man got up and went home. [8] When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. [NIV]

What difference did the paralytic's friends make?

What was the paralytic's greatest need?

What perspective does Isaiah 59:2 and Romans 6:23 give you on our greatest need?

**Isaiah 59:2**

But your iniquities have separated  
you from your God;  
your sins have hidden his face from you,  
so that he will not hear. [NIV]

**Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. [NIV]

What message did the physical healing of the paralytic send?

Now think about someone in your own life who has physical and/or spiritual needs. What is something you could do to help meet one of those needs?

3. Another lesson from Amos is that we are blessed to be a blessing. Often it's our perspective that determines if we use our resources to bless others, even more than our prosperity or need. How can the following verses help us keep a healthy perspective on our material possessions?

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18**

You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me."  
[18] But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. [NIV]

**Proverbs 23:4-5**

Do not wear yourself out to get rich;  
have the wisdom to show restraint.  
[5] Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone,  
for they will surely sprout wings  
and fly off to the sky like an eagle. [NIV]

**Luke 16:10-12**

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. [11] So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? [12] And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? [NIV]

**Jeremiah 9:23-24**

This is what the Lord says:

"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom  
or the strong man boast of his strength  
or the rich man boast of his riches,  
[24] but let him who boasts boast about this:  
that he understands and knows me,  
that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,"  
declares the Lord. [NIV]