

# **Amos: Unpopular Love**





# Our relationship with God is like a Marriage Covenant.



# Our relationship with God is like a **Marriage Covenant.**

But it is also like a Familial Relationship between a PARENT AND CHILD!





# Matthew 18:1-5 → At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

<sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.





Luke 15:17-20  $\rightarrow$  <sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.





**Reconciliation** – To restore a bad relationship back to Good.

**Purification** – To take away what is Dirty and Filthy and restore it to cleanliness (takes a looong time)

Blind Justice – God's character is completely Just.

Blind Mercy – God's character is completely Forgiving.



Humility –

**Imputation** -

**Social Justice -**



Humility – the practice of understanding our limitations, and being open to God's unlimited power. Submissiveness and Obedience to God.

Imputation – The act of being made right with God through Christ's saving Work and Sacrifice. TO BE HIM!

**Social Justice - Equality** in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. Society made RIGHT and JUST in God's sovereignty.



When reading the Bible remember:

**From Beginning to End**, this is about a broken relationship in need of mending.

The prophets are a warning to us to recognize how **completely Sinful we are** and **how Completely loved we are.** (Do not skip steps!)

#### Roadmap

#### **Amos: Unpopular Love**

#### I. Amos Background

I. Humble beginnings to persecution

#### II. On Social Justice

**III. On Popularity and Humility** 

"The words of Amos, one of the shepherds of Tekoa—the vision he saw concerning Israel two years before the earthquake, when Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel."

#### The Book of Amos is the **oldest of the four books that come to us from prophets who were active during the eighth century B.C.** (the others are Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah).

- Amos was from Tekoa, south of Jerusalem
- His Prophecy is directed toward the Northern Kingdom of Israel.





The time during which Amos prophesied was **a time of relative peace and prosperity** for the kingdom of Israel and her neighbors.

His prophecies were against their **Selfishness, Greed,** and their **Shallow Worship** of God

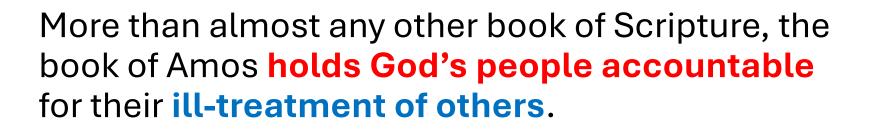


# Point #1: One cannot worship the Lord and lead a life of Injustice.

To do so is to Reject the Lord.

#### Amos 2:6-8

<sup>6</sup> This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Israel even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals. <sup>7</sup> They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name.<sup>8</sup> They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.







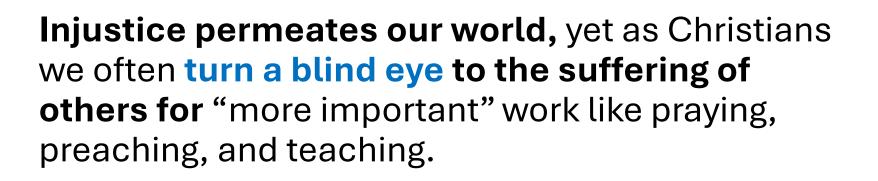
It repeatedly points out the failure of the people to fully embrace God's idea of justice:

They were selling off needy people for goods, taking advantage of the helpless, oppressing the poor, and the men were using women immorally (Amos 2:6–8; 3:10; 4:1; 5:11–12; 8:4–6).

They were also passive and chose to ignore the brokenness around them (Amos 6:1, 4-7)

Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation...<sup>4</sup> You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves...<sup>6</sup>You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.<sup>7</sup> Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.

**Injustice permeates our world,** yet as Christians we often **turn a blind eye to the suffering of others for** "more important" work like praying, preaching, and teaching.



God has called Christians not only to be in relationship with Him but also to be **in relationships with others.** 

## What are some Social Injustices we see in the World Today??

# How are Christians supposed to respond to this?









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**Salvation Theology** is recognizing that the root of all our problems is **SIN!** We cannot save Ourselves. We need the identity and works of a Savior **imputed** on us!!

## Point #2: BE CAREFUL about Focusing too much on Social Justice!

Look to the Savior of Society, not just on our ability to fix social ills.



#### Amos 7:10-15

Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: "Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For this is what Amos is saying: "'Jeroboam will die by the sword,

and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land."

<sup>12</sup> Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread there and do your prophesying there. <sup>13</sup> Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup> Amos answered Amaziah, "I was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I was a shepherd, and I also took care of sycamore-fig trees. <sup>15</sup> But the LORD took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'



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**1. Have you ever faced rejection or persecution about your faith?** 

2. What are some unpopular views from the Bible that people in today's culture struggle with?



God uses Amos to deliver a message of judgment to the Israelites

But the people uses Amos's status as a shepherd and foreigner as an excuse to ignore his message of judgment for their many sins.



# Point #3: People with Humility know their position in Christ.

They must be able to **receive his rebukes** and guidance and be willing to **Proclaim His Gospel unflinchingly.** 



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#### **Question:**

What are some aspects of your life that need correction?



#### John 15:16-19

<sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other. 18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.



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<sup>11</sup> "In that day "I will **restore** David's fallen shelter— I will **repair** its broken walls and restore its ruins— and will **rebuild** it as it used to be... New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills,<sup>14</sup> and I will bring my people Israel back from exile.

"They will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. <sup>15</sup> I will plant Israel in their own land, <u>never</u> <u>again to be uprooted</u> from the land I have given them," says the LORD your God.

#### Conclusion



1. Remember that the **Bible is a Love Story** with God pursuing and saving us through the work of **His Son!** (nothing else!)

2. The root of Social Justice lies on the character of God to forgive Sin, rather than our ability to fix social ills.

3. If you obey God and **preach the Good News**, this message will be **deeply unpopular** with the World.