

**Amos 3:1-3**  
**Walking With God**  
**(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)**

**One of the most challenging yet powerful and life changing moments in my life happened toward the end of my senior year of High School.**

A)It was an event that really set **the trajectory** of my life and my outlook on being a Christian from that day forward.

B)It happened when someone that I really trusted, respected and confided in – said to me in the midst of a conversation.

C)You know what your problem is Rob?

1)Now you know when someone says something like that you are in for it!

D)Brace yourself – here it comes –

1)But when it is someone you know who **really loves you** – foolish not to pay attention.

**So I braced myself for what was about to be said: My friend said, “Your problem is that Jesus is just a part of your life – but He is not the center of your life!” OUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

A)The truth hurts – And as much as I wanted to argue with that statement I knew it was true.

B)Did I love Jesus Yes! – But there were a lot of other things **vying** for His attention in my heart!

**Was I saved? Yes – Was I going to heaven Yes?**

A)But was I walking in and enjoying the full extend of what it truly meant to be a Christ follower? NO!

B)Sometimes Jesus was a big part of my life–

1)Sometimes He was a big focus –

C)But if I were honest there were other times when He was 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> or somewhere below #1 on the priority list!

**If I likened my life with Jesus to a Pie – The various things in my life were represented by slices of the pie – Job, family, friends, church, hobbies.**

A)Jesus was merely one of the slices in the pie!

B)And depending upon the season – sometimes he was a big slice – other times – medium slice – sometimes – SMALL

C)What I failed to realize until that day and that conversation is that Jesus didn't want to be **merely a slice in the pie of my life**

D)He wanted to be the center!! –

1)He wanted all those other things in my life to center around my relationship with Him!

D)At that moment – that was not the CASE!

1)**I REALIZED THAT DAY** – My outlook of being a Christ-follower needed to Change!

**Maybe you can relate to my story – perhaps if you were honest – you are wrestling with that right now!**

**A)Jesus is merely a part of your life and not the center!**

B)How would you respond if a friend/ someone you loved said that to you?

1)Angry? Resentful? – Defensive? – Or Honest?

**We are currently in a study of the Minor Prophets**

A)Wednesday – The whole book –

B)Sundays – The Major point of the Minor Prophets

C)In each one of these books – a loving God is sending a Prophet to tell a nation – things are not right!

**Around the year 760 BC God called a man who was a farmer named Amos to deliver a message to the nation of Israel**

A)Here in Ch.3 he asked a very pointed question.

**Can two walk together unless they be agreed?**

B)**Rhetorical question – The Answer was No!**

1)If two people are going to walk together – they have to be in agreement – where going – pace –

C)**My wife and I wrestle with this all the time – we go someplace – Me mission – get to destination.**

1)I am 6ft – my wife is 5'3 – my stride is longer

D)I am usually pulling her – She is sweating trying to keep up with My pace!

1)If we are going to walk “TOGETHER” I have to allow her to set the pace.

E) Israel was not walking in agreement with God and God sent Amos – to TELL THEM THAT!

### Who was Amos?

A) Amos was a farmer – a fig picker lived down in the southern area of Israel – little village called Tekoa

B) God called this fig farmer to go to the big city and deliver a message to the people of Northern Israel

C) Be like God calling someone from Rural Bonsall – Rainbow – out there in the tullies –

1) Go to Downtown LA or NY city – Times Square or Hollywood BLVD -

D) A message from God!

### The Time of Amos' Prophecy

A) The situation in the Northern Nation of Israel could not have been better outwardly

B) New King was on the throne – Jeroboam the II

C) He and Father before him had ended a 100 year war against Syria, which resulted in Israel being able to expand their territory

D) This expansion included valuable trade routes from Assyria to Egypt and with that came tons of trade dollars and taxes

### So Israel was booming economically

1) It was the greatest of times since the reign of Solomon

But even though things were going great economically, the nation was bankrupt spiritually

A) The opening verses here of Ch. 3 Amos – highlights the special relationship Israel had w/ God

B) V.1 Redeemed out of Egypt! God says – I brought you up out of the Land of Egypt – 400 yrs of slavery.

C) V.2 Called into a special relationship with God!

1) Of all the families of the earth – Only you have I known {Special close intimate relationship

D) Their relationship with God was unique – a special call – a special relationship

E) Chronicled in Deuteronomy 7:6-8

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers.”

### God referred to Israel as His special treasure!

A) Not because there was anything special about them –

B) But because God in His sovereignty had selected this group of people to bless and work through

1) From them His Messiah- the Savior would come

C) But the people of Israel were not living like they were in a special relationship with God!

### The Problem was twofold

- #1 Carelessness Spiritually
- #2 Callousness Socially

A) #1 Carelessness Spiritually -Israel was going through the motions spiritually

B) They still kept the feast days – and offered sacrifices – but it was all ritual –

1) But it was all simply going through the motions!

C) That is an easy thing to have happen – especially when you have walked with Jesus for a while!

1) You start to take for granted – what Jesus did in order for you to be SAVED!

D) You take for granted – were on your way to Hell

1) Now on your way to heaven!

It is an easy thing to happen to young people who have only known – life in the Church

A) They know the stories – they know the word

B) They lose that sense of wonder – Magnitude of the reality – living God – loves us

1) Wants to be our friend – wants us to know Him intimately

C)The God who made the worlds – Galaxies – who sustains it all – in the span of His hand

1)Is intimately interested in the most minute details of your life

**So much so that He says – Knows the number of hairs on your head!**

A)You get a hair cut – He knows

B)His thoughts out number the sand – thoughts not of evil but good .... Future and a hope

1)Some of us heard that so many times – it no longer carries the weight it once did – not special

**C)And we can find ourselves going through the motions spiritually**

1)Going through the motions – lead us to seeking out new experiences

D)For Israel that translated into a form of Idolatry!

**1 Kings & 12 Chronicles when Jeroboam II – fashioned two golden Calves – One in Bethel – other in Dan**

A)He called them Jehovah – the whole motivation was to make worship more convenient for Northern Israel

B)You don't need to travel all the way to Jerusalem to Worship – we have our symbol of God right here

C)Well the worshipping of the golden calves led to the Worship of Baal - Canaanite god

D)They would worship Baal – and they would worship Jehovah

1)It was all about what made them happy – not what God had prescribed in His word

**This carelessness spiritually also led to the people being given over to Materialism and Sensuality**

A)That is the way that sin always is – it is progressive

B) “Little compromises” lead to bigger compromises

1) Really, Compromise is compromise – no little compromises – but we like to think that way

**C)Flirting leads to adultery - Porn leads to sexual addiction – and sexual perversity**

1)Pot smoking leads to harder drugs –

D)The Mentality that was prevalent in the culture of Israel at that time was: **it is all about me my happiness, my needs – my pleasure –**

E)That mentality unfortunately is prevalent in the church today. – What is in it for me!

**That mentality led to their 2<sup>nd</sup> problem – Callousness socially toward the poor – those hurting.**

A)When it is all about you – you don't have time to worry about the needs of others

B)They were not in agreement with the heart of God

1)Amos puts forth the question – **can two walk together unless they be agreed?**

**John the Apostle wrote: I have no greater Joy than to see my children walking in the truth.**

A)All of you who are parents know exactly how John felt

B)That is the heart of God as well

C)Throughout scripture the believers experience with God is likened to a walk!

1)Walking speaks of Relationship – **My wife and I take walks – hand in hand – talking – relationship**

**Numerous examples in Scripture! –**

A)Very beginning in the book of Genesis – **Adam and God walked together in the coolness of the day**

B)Enoch walked with God and was not for God took him

1)Closer to my house than your house – come home with me!

C)Walk in the light – God is in the light – no darkness at all!

➤ **Walk circumspectly – toward outsiders**

➤ **Walk in wisdom**

➤ **Walk in love**

Deuteronomy 5:32 <sup>32</sup>“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

<sup>33</sup> You shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live and *that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.*

The Lord says Walk with me that you may Live – Enjoy life – created to live in relationship with me!

A) Walk that you may live – and that it may be well with you - prolong your days

B) How many of you know – probably be dead right now if you hadn't become a Christian?

C) Twice in Ch. 5 Amos says Seek the Lord and live!

1) I have so much for you

D) God wants us to walk with him – live in relationship with Him – let Him lead us

1) Trust Him with our lives – every part of it

E) Walking in step with His plan – His heart – because we trust that He loves us

1) Knows what is best for us!

The way some of us try and walk with God looks a little more like when I try to walk with my dog

A) The other day – I was in the mood to take a nice long – good walk with our Pooch Reddington. –

B) Laced up my shoes – lease – headed out the door – I was looking to exercise

C) The Problem was – about every 20 feet – he wanted to stop and smell the flowers –

1) the bushes the neighbors mail box –

D) So every 20 feet I am pulling on him and saying– **come on Red- leave it**

After 20 minutes I just gave up! – Turned around went home

A) **Sometimes we are like that with God – we are prone to run to areas and things – we don't belong and the Holy Spirit is pulling on our hearts – Leave it**

B) **Leave it – trust me – walk with Me**

1) Experience something very special!

Now there are other times when I try to walk with Reddington where he wants to be ahead of me –

A) He wants to direct the way - he is pulling me the whole time.

B) Constantly pulling on him to get him to slow down – go in the right direction

C) We have one of those retractable leashes – and I have to reel it in.

Again we can do that with the Lord – we are trying to pull Him in our direction

A) We are trying to lead the way

B) He is constantly pulling us back –

C) Sometimes the Lord gives us enough slack so that we can see – where we really want to go is not good

But then there are those times – Red walks right beside me – awesome we are in sync

A) We are in agreement – he will signal when he wants to stop and rest – lays down on the sidewalk! – REST!

B) GOD wants us to walk with Him – be in a relationship – realize His love – trust Him

**How is your walk right now?**

A) Holy Spirit pulling on you to leave it?– **Are you listening?**

B) Sometimes we want to see how close to the world we can get – **where is the Line – Line continues to move**

C) Sometimes our lives don't look much different

D) Coco's {**Sweetest fellowship season of growth!** Fellowship – Sharing in Common Jesus

When Jesus is the center of our lives – we want Him to be at the forefront and included in everything.

A) Paul declared – Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

B) Listen I am not suggesting that everything has to **be a Bible study or Worship service**

1) Not at all!

C)When Paul says the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking –

1)He is saying – the focus is not the party

D)Jesus enjoyed hanging with people and attending weddings and feasts!

1)Eating and drinking were daily occurrences

E)He once even invited himself .... For lunch

Paul is saying Focal point is not the party – The focal point is not just to have a good time!

A)Focal point is keeping Jesus the center of everything!

B)Bring Jesus to your gatherings – more than a token prayer for the food.

1)Would he be comfortable – honored -

C)Bachelor parties – pranks – New tradition

The issue is not Sacred vs Secular!

A)Not wrong to watch a Sporting event

B)Reading Paul's letters and analogies – clear that Paul was familiar with the Olympic games of his day

C)Paul would have been a sports fan today

D)So not saying wrong or a waste of time to watch a ball game.

1)But if someone there opens up at half time struggling with something – do we have the sense to turn off TV and minister to our bro!

Keeping Jesus front and center – how you play!

A)Taking Jesus to work with you – how you work – how you treat customers – Employees – Honor Him

B)Don't separate Him from those areas of your life!

How is your walk right now?

A)Is the Holy Spirit tugging on your heart right now – Change is needed Friendships/ gatherings

B)Sometimes – all it takes is One person bold enough to lead – to change things -

C)Find a way to make Jesus more central

Are you trying to pull the Lord in the direction

you want to go?

A)Let Him lead – pursue Him

B)As you do – watch how your heart changes – perspective changes – heart for others changes

B)Israel got careless spiritually going through the motions – SELF FOCUS

1)Sidetracked into materialism and sensuality

C)That led to them being callous toward the poor

1)Completely missing God's heart

Jesus said Luke 10:21 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' –

The 2<sup>nd</sup> is the by product of the first

A)LOVE JESUS WITH ALL your HEART .....  
NATURALLY LOVE OTHERS

C)Love your spouse? – Walk with Jesus

1)Submitting to one another in the fear of the Lord –

D)Good parent? – Walk with Jesus – let him tell you how to relate to your kids

1)Aaron – Enter into His world

E)Employee or Employer – walk with Jesus

1)Put Him first – treat others the way He would Work for him

The first step in the Process is to get in agreement with the Lord - Center of everything!

A)Amos' message: 4:12 prepare Oh Israel to meet the Lord

Summons – this is coming – all of us ready to stand before Him to give an account?

Privilege – every day – The King of Kings and Lord of Lord's waiting – spend time with Him

Put your life in alignment with His

Also Invitation – today - Don't know God – Jesus left heaven – Cross – for you –  
John 17:3 And this is eternal life..... Know

Know about Him – or do you Know Him?