



11am Bible Study: Pastor Will Lloyd, IV, MTS

Topic: Love and Concern
Series Title: Alert
Chapters: Amos 3 **Jan. 15th, 2025**

Central Text: Amos 3:1-2, NKJV, 1 Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying: 2 “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.”

Introduction

In today’s lesson, we’ll **learn from a lack of love of God and a lack of concern for others.** Assyria, the dominant military power during Amos’s life, saw a temporary decline after the death of the Assyrian King Shalmaneser III in 824 B.C., which lasted until 745 B.C., opening the door to a period of prosperity and peace during the reigns of Jeroboam II, King of Israel, and Azariah, King of Judah (The Holman Bible Atlas, pg.134). Instead of loving God, Israel dishonored God by continuing pagan practices handed down from prior sinful kings and ***withheld justice from the poor among them, refusing to obey God’s command in Leviticus 19:18 to “love your neighbor as yourself.”*** As a result, God sends **Amos**, whose name means “**burden bearer**,” to prophecy to Israel about ***pending judgment*** and the ***need to repent***. Similar to Amos’ day, many of today’s Christians are **complacent, idolatrous, and unconcerned** about those far from God.

How do we show Love and Concern?

1. Remember God’s Love and Discipline – Amos 3:1-2

Question for Dialogue: What recent occurrence has reminded you of God’s love for you?

2. Listen to God’s Alarm – Amos 3:3-11

Question for Dialogue: What happened the last time you ignored an alarm from God?

3. Join the Faithful – Amos 3:12-15; Amos 9:8-10

Question for Dialogue: Going against the grain of societal norms isn’t bad when God and other faithful believers are there to support you. What are some steps you can take to go further in your faith walk?

Conclusion

Israel failed to show “**Love and Concern**” and was on the brink of national disaster as a consequence. They loved **idols** instead of God. They loved **themselves** instead of others. Their **lack of concern** and abuse of the poor and their *reliance on their wealth and prosperity subjected them to God’s judgment*. In 722 B.C., the Assyrians overran and exiled the Israelites, who **learned the hard way that God disciplines those he loves and issues justice when men withhold it from others**. Christians should show love for God and concern for others because those are the **primary charges** God gives to them, found in the **Great Commandment and Great Commission**. “Love and Concern” can be shown by *remembering God’s love and discipline, listening to God’s alarm, and joining the faithful*.

How to narrow down your salvation testimony to a Two Minute Story? (Salvation as an adult)

Instructions: Write each point down on paper in your own words. It's your story so you know it like the back of your hand. Then begin to say it verbally to yourself. After saying it verbally to yourself, ask someone if you can share it with them. If you want to practice on me first, give me a call and I'll listen.

1. Express your emotional and mental state prior to accepting Jesus
2. Express how you tried to live upright in your own strength & failed
3. Express your biggest sinful issues
4. Express how God got your attention, what was the final straw, and how it made you feel
5. Express how you repented, believed, and received
6. Express how you felt afterwards, and how Jesus can do the same for them.

How to narrow down your salvation testimony to a Two Minute Story? (Salvation as a child, and then how you recommitted either as a teen or an adult)

Instructions: Write each point down on paper in your own words. It's your story so you know it like the back of your hand. Then begin to say it verbally to yourself. After saying it verbally to yourself, ask someone if you can share it with them. If you want to practice on me first, give me a call and I'll listen.

1. Express that you were raised in the church and learned about Jesus’ forgiveness of sins
2. Express that you knew you were a sinner and needed forgiveness, so you repented, believed, and received God’s Holy Spirit.
3. Express how your faith was as you grew up (typically those who get saved and baptized early are pulled by the world at some point) - express some of your biggest sinful issues
4. Express how God got your attention while drifting, what was the final straw, and how it made you feel
5. Express how you returned to Jesus through repentance, and the Holy Spirit’s empowerment
6. Express how you felt afterwards, and how Jesus can do the same for them.

Salvation Sharing Method – R.B.R. – Entering a relationship with Jesus requires Repenting, Believing, and Receiving – (R.B.R.)

We **Repent** by turning from our way of living to Jesus’ way of living. It’s like being Born Again. We die to our life, and are born to a new life in Christ. **John 3:3, Luke 13:3**

We **Believe** by believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. And accepting Jesus as Lord of our life. **John 3:16, Romans 10:9-10,13**

We **Receive** by receiving God’s gift of the Holy Spirit in our hearts after Repentance and Belief, which empowers us to live for Jesus. Galatians 5:16, Ephesians 1:13,(secondary supporting verses only, Acts 2:36-38, Romans 8:9)

Short Salvation Prayer - Jesus I repent of my sins, which means I’m turning from my way of living to your way of living. I believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and accept you as Lord of my life. I receive the Holy Spirit in my heart, which marks me as God’s child, fills me with God’s presence, and empowers me over sin. Thank you Jesus for saving me. It’s In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.