

“WALK THIS WAY”

Amos, whose name means “Burden Bearer,” was from a small village of Tekoa, 12 miles south of Jerusalem, where he was a shepherd and keeper of sycamore trees (1:1; 7:14-15). Although he was not a prophet by profession (7:14), he became one when God called. Amos was a “country boy” being sent to prophesy against the high society of Israel. Amos is like a shooting star streaking through the Old Testament, appearing out of the fields of Tekoa, prophesying about the sins and doom of Israel and vanishing never to be heard again. His message can be divided into three main sections: Condemnation of Heathen Nations (1-2); Condemnation of Israel (3-6) and Future Prophecies (7-9).

Before disappearing, Amos leaves with us a simple, yet profound statement worthy of our consideration, “**Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**” (Amos 3:3). The question is rhetorical: two cannot walk together unless they are in agreement. In this study we will consider what it means to be in agreement with God and walk together with Him for the purpose of answering the question: Am I walking with God?

We Must Walk On The Same Road As God. Our culture is one that proudly promotes going your own way and doing your own thing, but walking with God requires conformity to His will (Matthew 7:21). There are many who suggest that all are going to the same place, but taking different roads to get there, yet Jesus says there is only one way (John 14:6). Others simply refuse to walk the path that God has paved (Jeremiah 6:16). It is foolish to seek out your own path because God’s road is a better, smoother road (Isaiah 35:8) and it is a protected road (Isaiah 35:9-10). Enoch is specifically mentioned as “**walking with God**” (Genesis 5:22). Notice that it was Enoch who walked with God, not God walking with Enoch. David said the Lord led him in paths of righteousness (Psalm 23:3), but it was up to

David to follow the Lord, instead of the Lord going wherever David wanted to go. Amos said to walk together we must agree, but it is man’s responsibility to agree with the Lord, rather than saying, “If God does this or this, then I’ll walk with Him.”

We Must Walk In The Same Direction As God. If you have ever gone the wrong way on a one way street, you realize that just being on the right road is not enough; you must also go the right direction. A person can do a lot of walking, but unless he agrees to walk the way God is walking, he is going in the wrong direction (Matthew 7:13-14) and is only walking away from God. “**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you**” (James 4:8). Again, walking in the same direction as God requires that we be in agreement with God, not in negotiations or conflict with Him. He KNOWS the way, we only think we know the way (John 14: 4-6; Proverbs 14:12). He is in the light, which means we cannot walk in the shadows/darkness (1 Jn. 1:6-9).

We Must Walk At The Same Speed God Is Walking. If you have ever walked with a group of people (mall, amusement park, beach), you know that not everyone walks at the same speed; some are fast, some slow, some walk a steady pace. Not everyone who is walking with God will travel the same speed. Some are like the tortoise (slow and steady), while others are like the hare (fast and furious). Some grow rapidly, learn quickly and pass from babes in Christ to mature Christians who are able to teach others. Others need more time, attention and encouragement, and may still never reach the same levels of knowledge and abilities as others (Matthew 25:14-30).

Sometimes we will want to move faster than God is wanting us to go. Jonah ran ahead of God by expecting, hoping and waiting for God to destroy Ninevah instead of sparing them, despite the fact that they repented of their sins (Jonah 4). We want to speed up the process when it comes to our personal growth, developing patience, converting the

lost or bringing back the erring, but sometimes it just takes time. God doesn’t view time the same way we do (2 Peter 3:8), so we must “set our clock” by His.

We Must Walk Consistently With God. The biggest deterrent to weight loss is inconsistency; you cannot kill yourself in the gym and starve yourself in the kitchen for a week and then go back to normal the next. Walking with God is not an occasional, or even a weekly (Sunday/Wednesday) thing, but a DAILY walk. A concert pianist once said, “If I miss my piano practice one day I know it, if I miss two days my friends know it, if I miss three days the whole world knows it.” Perhaps the biggest deterrent to my personal Christian growth, faith and living is due to inconsistency. “**And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me**” (Luke 9:23). What have you done today to show you walk with God? What will you do tomorrow?

Brandon Britton from *The Encourager*

Plan to be here for each lesson of our

Spring Gospel Meeting

*“All Things Pertaining
Unto Life and Godliness”*

Dudley Morton

April 6-10, 2008

Sunday: 9:30 am ~ 10:30 am ~ 6:00 pm

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday Class: 10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS

Joel Nelson, 03-24; Sarah Edwards, 03-28;
Clara Scott, 03-29.

ILL

Sunday: Joy and Natalie Parish.

Allen Scott is recuperating at home. Dee Adams is recuperating at home. Helen Franklin is in Room 523 at the Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, Louisiana. Richard Massey is scheduled for surgery at the Veteran's Hospital in Dallas, Texas on March 31.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations are extended to Allen and Clara Scott on the birth of their new great-grandson, Samuel Wayne Johnson on March 14, 2008.

OUT OF TOWN

The Brown's were in Texas last week for a school activity. Wilba Hopkins was in Neosho, MO visiting with her family last weekend. Trent Thrasher was visiting his wife to be and her family in Owensville, MO last week.

MEETING PREPARATION

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for those who are willing and able to help in the cleaning and preparation of our building and grounds for our meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 39; Sunday PM, 37; Wednesday PM, 34.

Those To Serve

March 23, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE..... Steve Brown
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas
LORD'S SUPPER..... Steve Brown

WEDNESDAY 26th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson
INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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