



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 083 - The Unwelcomed Southerner Amos

God sent a variety of messengers to announce His warnings and promises. One of the most colorful is a farmer and herder named Amos who got up into people's faces. The fact that God would inspire him to give such strong, harsh warnings shows how desperate the situation in the Northern Kingdom had become.

- What kind of reception would Amos face in your congregation, family or community?
- When is being brash like Amos more effective than being sensitive and trying to avoid causing offense?
- When are gentleness and sensitivity more effective?

At least twice Jesus came out swinging like Amos, when He cleansed the temple in John 2:13-22 and when He condemned the self-righteousness of the Pharisees in Matthew 23. Like Amos, He made many enemies in the process.

- Why did Jesus take such a drastic action which He knew would turn against Him?
- When do we need to risk the peace of our families, churches or workplaces to show this kind of *tough love*?
- How do you decide whether to temper God's warnings of hell or to describe it in all its terrible truth?

Amos didn't warn of severe judgment only; he also proclaimed God's offer of deliverance and salvation through the coming Messiah. Of course, in order to save us from suffering in hell, Jesus took on Himself the punishment we deserve as He suffered and died on the cross.

- After the harsh "reality check" God's Law brings, how does the Gospel of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ bring peace and restoration to troubled consciences?
- How can we describe the peace we enjoy living in Christ's forgiveness to those who have been convicted of their sins by the Law?