

I Just Want My Life Back

Amos 3:11,12

These scriptures are foretelling a warning from the Lord concerning Samaria.

These scriptures are words from the Lord through the prophet Amos concerning their opening their eyes and to see their transgressions.

It would seem to me that the Lord constantly had to warn his people of their lifestyles and attitudes towards God.

Look at what he said to the Laodecian Church.

Maybe it's the same way today.

In the 11th verse The Lord God states that "An adversary shall be round about the land and he will bring down thy strength from thee, that thy palaces shall be spoiled."

Here again is yet another warning from the Lord that Satan is on the loose!

There is an adversary of your soul today!

You are no match for him alone!

Satan and the powers of hell's craftiness by far supercede your own abilities.

That's because you and I are flesh and our flesh today and always will be against the spiritual aspects of God!

Flesh and spirit will forever engage in warfare.

The warning portrays that your palaces shall be spoiled or that all of your luxuries and possessions shall be taken away from you.

By whom? The adversary!

The adversary today is the powers of Hell!

Then the scripture tells of the Shepherd who goes to the mouth of the lion and begins to remove pieces of that little lamb.

A lion has destroyed that little ewe lamb.

He finds a piece of an ear, two legs.

Hear me when I declare that the little lamb is lost to the Shepherd forever.

At one time the lamb was full of life and bouncing around with a promised future ahead of it.

But now because the lamb strayed, the lamb has been destroyed.

Hear your Pastor today!

There are some things that after they have been destroyed can NEVER EVER be fixed!

No doubt the Shepherd is sorry and full of regret that the lamb strayed and ended up losing its life.

But the bottom line is that the lamb had a will of its own.

At the first opportunity the lamb bolted for its freedom from the Shepherd.

The result was tragic!

- In the Fall of 2002 while working for Tri-State Sheet Metal
- My boss and his wife were on their way to their house on the lake.
- They came around a curve and 20 deer was in the road.
- They hit the brakes and lost control of their vehicle.
- The vehicle went off the road and flipped around 4 times end over end.
- During this accident my boss was tossed out of the vehicle.
- His wife although shaken was safe and crawled out of the vehicle and walked one mile to the closest house for help.
- My boss was life-flighted to St. Mary's hospital in Evansville.

- There he was in critical condition and on life support for several days.
- During this time because of his injuries, my boss suffered two strokes.
- These two strokes forever changed his life in several negative ways.
- He lost complete use of his right arm.
- Because of a massive steel rod inserted in his leg, he will forever walk with a severe limp.
- He lost a lot of his balance skills.
- His thought process, his business mind, his memory was forever changed.
- He was a sheet metal journeyman.
- His expertise was design and build.
- All of these skills were lost to him.
- He lost 60% sight in his right eye.
- He lost his driving skills.
- He went through every possible rehabilitation program there was.
- He made some progress but today he is only a fraction of the man he was.

He walked into my office one day after a bad day at therapy.

In frustration he sat down and I will forever remember his words to me.....

“I JUST WANT MY LIFE BACK”

It is safe to say that he had made all of the progress in rehabilitation that he was going to make.

Although he no doubt is happy to be alive, life has forever changed for him.

Let me now tell the even greater tragedy of this story.

Remember his wife that walked away to get help?

The reason she walked away and he didn't is very plain and simple.

Although she was bruised and cut from the shattering glass she was not even treated at the hospital.

She was not ejected from that vehicle because she put on her seat belt.

He didn't.

This was also a man that NEVER EVER went anywhere without his seat belt on and he required the passengers to wear one also.

But on this night they had stopped and ate dinner and he had eaten a little too much.

The seat belt confined him and he thought it won't hurt just this one time to not wear one.

I don't know how many times when he was struggling to do something at the office or in the shop I would hear him say "Why didn't I buckle my seat belt"?

Every time I would hear him make this statement I would remember him saying to me in my office "I Just Want My Life Back"!

He was saying I don't want to:

- Have help putting my clothes on.
- Depend on someone else to put on my shoes and buckle them up.
- Have someone help me shower.
- Have to have someone drive me everywhere I go.
- Have this bad leg and useless arm.

But all of his injuries were based on him being ejected from the vehicle because he didn't do **WHAT HE KNEW HE SHOULD AND WHAT HE DID EVERYDAY!**

The accident investigators even wrote in the report that should he have elected to put on his seat belt, he probably would have also walked away from the accident just like his wife did.

But because he failed to do what he knew to do:

- He lost his income skills.
- In certain aspects of his daily life he must now have assistance.
- He suffers daily physical pain.
- He battles constant depression.
- **All because he failed to take that safety precaution.**

So his lost plea is "I Just Want My Life Back"!

I look at this statement and it is too late for him.

A bad choice and ignoring what he knew he should do, has left him in a state of catastrophic lifestyle changes.

What a help it would have been if he had just said regardless of the discomfort I must make the right choice.

Instead his statement is: I JUST WANT MY LIFE BACK!

For quite some time now I have been struggling with how to approach this congregation.

We have people in this Church that “Church” is a lifestyle for them that they are committed to.

We have some that attend with a complete lackadaisical attitude towards God, Church, Worship and the preaching of the Word.

For far too long I have watched individuals in this congregation use every possible activity and excuse to keep them from a relationship with God.

A thing I have learned quite well.

You can't make anyone change! If change comes it will be because THEY want to change!

If they stay changed it will be because THEY want to stay changed.

For far too long I have watched ones not say with their mouth leave me alone, but their **ACTIONS AND RESPONSE** has screamed those very words.

Too many who sit this morning on Church pews have become gospel hardened.

The word cannot reach them. Only some type of catastrophic life event will ever give them a change of mind and heart.

I see some of those people sitting on these Church pews.

I am convinced that some absolutely don't want a Pastor in their life.

So Be It! I can live with that!

There are some who are going to do what they want to, when they want to.

So Be It! I can live with that!

But as the Pastor of this Church I am compelled to ring out a warning to this congregation!

The adversary is out there with the ability to take your strength from you.

I am tired and weary of:

- Preaching to dry eyes!
- Watching 45 second prayers around this altar.
- Watching plenty of talking and laughing going on.
- Being turned off five minutes into my sermon.
- Listening to someone talk about others in the Church about information they have nothing to do with.

It's time we do what we know is right!

A don't care attitude could easily result in a personal statement of "I Just Want My Life Back!"

One thing you must realize today.

Galatians 6:7

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

If you sow a non committed experience; that is exactly what you will reap!

Spiritual laziness breeds spiritual laziness!

Let your children and grandchildren be around a non committed attitude and watch what it breeds!

I'm constantly around people who have raised their children in Church yet those

children have strayed from Truth!

Even if you raise your children in a committed lifestyle there are no guarantees.

But they at least have that spiritual education in them to someday return to.

I don't want to someday walk down this aisle and hear someone say "If I had only put my seat belt on."

I don't want to hear someone say, "I just want my life back!"