

Are You Too Comfortable With Your Sin?

Lessons From Amos Chapter 6

It is easy to get comfortable. Comfortable with life, comfortable with habits, and sometimes, comfortable with sin. The prophet Amos sounded a loud alarm to the people of Israel in chapter six, warning them that their spiritual complacency was leading them toward destruction. The question worth asking today is whether we are doing the same thing.

What Does It Mean to Be "Too Comfortable" in Your Sin?

Imagine a family sitting together on a winter evening. The fire is going, the movie is on, everyone is cozy. Then the smoke alarm sounds. Dad pulls out the battery and sets it aside. Mom says she smells smoke. Dad brushes it off. A few minutes later, the problem is very real.

The issue was never that the alarm was too loud. The issue was that the family was too comfortable to respond to the warning.

That is exactly what Amos was confronting in Israel. The people had grown so comfortable in their sin that they were ignoring God's warnings entirely. They assumed they were fine. They made excuses. And those excuses led to consequences.

What Happens When We Get Comfortable With Sin?

When we settle into spiritual complacency, a predictable pattern tends to follow:

- Our faith becomes stale and complacent
- We begin treating others wrongly
- We lose our reverence for God
- We turn inward toward self rather than outward toward God and others

This is not a slow drift that goes unnoticed by God. He sees it. And like a loving Father, He sounds the alarm. The real question is whether we will respond or make excuses.

Lesson 1: Comfort Can Blind Us to Our Own Spiritual Condition

How Does Prosperity Lead to Spiritual Blindness?

In Amos chapter six, verse one, God addresses those who are "at ease in Zion" and those who "trust in Mount Samaria." He is speaking to the leaders and the people of both the northern and southern kingdoms. These were people who had experienced tremendous material prosperity. The economy was thriving. Life was good. And because of that, they had grown morally and spiritually lax.

Material prosperity is not a sin. But it carries a real danger. When things are going well financially, it is easy to drift toward self-sufficiency and away from dependence on God.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." - 1 Timothy 6:10

God pointed Israel to three kingdoms that had already fallen: Calneh, Hamath, and Gath. These were godless nations that at least had the sense to recognize danger when it came. Israel, with all of their religious heritage, could not see what was right in front of them.

John the Baptist confronted the same attitude in the New Testament. When crowds came to be baptized, he challenged them directly:

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our Father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham." - Luke 3:8

Having a spiritual heritage or religious routine does not make anyone immune to judgment. God is after the heart, not the performance.

How Can We Guard Against Spiritual Blindness?

The practice of regularly asking God to search your heart is one of the most important habits a believer can develop. Psalm 139 puts it this way:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." - Psalm 139:23-24

Acknowledging the tendency to drift is not weakness. It is wisdom. Ask God often to reveal what you may be excusing away.

Lesson 2: Comfort Hardens Our Hearts Toward Others

What Does Spiritual Complacency Do to Our Compassion?

In verses three through eight, Amos shifts his warning from the leaders to the wealthy who were oppressing the land. He describes people lying on beds of ivory, eating lavish meals, singing songs, drinking wine, and anointing themselves with fine oils. On the surface, none of those things are inherently wrong. But the indictment comes in verse six:

They were "not grieved for the affliction of Joseph." They were completely numb to the suffering happening around them.

When we become too focused on our own comfort, our hearts can grow hard toward the pain of others. We stop noticing. We stop caring. We tell ourselves there is nothing we can do anyway.

Something as small as a candy bar given to a flight attendant with a kind word can remind someone that they are seen and valued. It does not take grand gestures to reflect God's heart toward people. It takes awareness, and awareness requires that we lift our eyes off ourselves.

What Should We Do When We See Our Nation or Others Suffering?

When the state of the world or the sin in a nation weighs on you, one of the most powerful responses available is prayer. Do not underestimate it. Pray for your nation. Pray for your leaders. Pray for humility and repentance. Pray for people to return to God. Prayer sharpens your own faith while also serving as an effective tool in the lives of those around you.

God's response to Israel's self-absorbed attitude was direct. He said in verse eight:

"I abhor the pride of Jacob and detest his fortresses; I will deliver up the city and everything in it." - Amos 6:8

Pride was at the root of it all. And pride is dangerous.

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." - 1 Peter 5:5

Pride has a way of destroying what matters most. Families, ministries, relationships. And often, the person carrying it is the last one to see it.

Lesson 3: Comfort Can Make Us Think We Are Safe From God's Judgment

Can We Escape Consequences by Ignoring God's Warnings?

In verses nine through fourteen, Amos describes a coming destruction so severe that fear would grip the survivors. People would refuse to even speak the name of the Lord, afraid that more judgment might follow.

History confirmed what Amos warned. In 734 BC, the Assyrian king invaded northern Israel and took captives. Twelve years later, Samaria was besieged. Two years after that, the city was completely destroyed and 27,000 people were taken into captivity. Three waves of judgment, just as God had warned.

Escaping one consequence does not mean the next one is not coming. Spiritual complacency can create a false sense of security, a feeling that judgment is for other people, not for us.

What Is a Healthy Fear of God?

A healthy fear of God is not terror. It is reverence. It is the recognition that He is holy, that sin has real consequences, and that His warnings are not empty. When that reverence fades, we begin to treat sin casually and ourselves as the center of everything.

Israel boasted about conquering Lo Debar (which literally means "nothing") and Karnaim, two small trade routes, as if they had achieved something great by their own strength. God's response was essentially: you are celebrating nothing, and you have no idea what is coming.

Self-sufficiency and pride are a dangerous combination. They cause us to stop looking to God and start trusting in our own accomplishments.

The Hope in the Middle of the Warning

Sin promises great things and delivers none of them. It will always hurt more than it helps. The wages of sin is death, and when we sow to the flesh, we reap accordingly.

But that is exactly why Jesus came. He came because we could not save ourselves. If we could have, He would not have needed to. God sent His Son to die so that anyone who acknowledges their sinfulness and inability to save themselves can receive life instead of death.

Where sin destroys, Christ restores. That is the offer on the table. Own it, confess it, and leave it at the foot of the cross.

Life Application

This week, take an honest look at the areas of your life where you may have grown comfortable. Not comfortable in the sense of resting in God's peace, but comfortable in the sense of making excuses, ignoring conviction, or drifting away from dependence on Him.

The challenge is simple but not easy: pray Psalm 139:23-24 every day this week. Ask God to search your heart and show you anything you have been excusing away. Then respond with humility rather than resistance.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Is there an area of sin in my life that I have been brushing off or making excuses for?
- Has my comfort, whether financial, relational, or spiritual, caused me to stop caring about the people and the world around me?
- Am I living with a healthy reverence for God, or have I started to treat His warnings as things that apply to other people but not to me?
- What would it look like this week to respond to God's conviction with humility instead of resistance?

God's patience is greater than we often realize. He keeps sending warnings because He loves us. The kindness of God is meant to lead us to repentance. Do not pull the battery out of the alarm. Respond while there is still time.