



Woolley Sheep & Hairy Goats:

A Shepherd's Correction & Compassion

Amos 3:12 Thus saith the Lord: As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear; so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria in the corner of a bed, and in Damascus in a couch."

Illustration: Have a sheep or a lamb haltered. To be able to see the animal & to touch it will draw the focus exactly where you want it, on the correction and compassion that God has for His people. We have used a sheep indoors by bringing a tarp in for easy cleanup. If you have access to an outdoor setup, all the better.

Psalm 100:3

Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Matthew 25:33

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

To understand the Bible you need to not take scripture "out of context." Simply put, see who a particularly passage was written to, or about. So let me first say, not everyone is a "sheep." When the Bible refers to people as sheep and Jesus as the Good Shepherd, it needs to be clear in your mind that not everyone is a sheep. Some are still goats. A "sheep" is referring to people that have accepted the Messiah as personal Savior, that is Jesus Christ, and are therefore in the flock. That is a foundational fact that needs to be understood from the beginning of this lesson.

Introduction: Amos is called one of the Minor Prophets. He was probably a boy when Elisha was alive. However, he may not have known Elisha because Amos was a farmer before God picked him to be a prophet. Yes, God calls farmers and ranchers to serve Him!

Although Amos was not a Bible College graduate, he was led by God via the Holy Spirit and presented with a message of judgment for the Hebrews [Jews/Israelites] as well as the surrounding nations. God picked Amos because he was a compassionate man. God wanted to communicate how much it grieved God to have to correct and punish His people.

Read: *Amos 3:12*

Message: Have any of you ever heard your dad say, “This is going to hurt me more than it will hurt you”?

You may hear these words spoken right before punishment was handed down, so to speak.

Amos 3:12 illustrates what this phrase really means. In previous verses, Amos has been telling of judgment to come on Israel; then he proceeds to give us a really good example of how God feels when He has to bring punishment on His people.

As a farmer or rancher, Amos uses an example that he probably experienced firsthand.

As he tells this, he must have remembered how sick he felt when he found this little lamb that the lion had killed. He thought back to how he had fed, loved, and cared for this lamb. How he had corrected and tried to train this lamb to stay close to him, but the lamb disobeyed and strayed away from him and a lion caught the lamb.

By the time the shepherd found the lamb, all that was left was 2 legs, or a piece of an ear.

Can you imagine how awful he felt? Amos probably got a sick feeling in his stomach just thinking back to when something like this must have happened to one of his lambs. He loved that lamb just like he loved all of the others. He knew that the correction and training that he did was to protect the lamb, but the lamb did not obey and that Old Lion got him and destroyed him.

God used that illustration to let us know how He feels when we are disobedient and He has to correct us.

You may not think that punishment or correction is a display of love, but it is.



This story shows 3 ways that God displays His love toward us:

God is long-suffering in the way He deals with sin and rebellion. 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

- He carries us when we are weak.
- He is patient and keeps reminding us when we sin.
- He shows us the boundaries.
- He provides for us.

God's correction MUST come because He knows who is stalking us.

- The Devil that Old Lion is looking for people that are weak. *1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*
- The Devil tries to get us to forget God's instruction. *Genesis 3:1*

- The Devil tells us that there should be no boundaries. *1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*
- The Devil is out to condemn us to the same place that he is doomed to. *Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

God, through His Son, was willing to die in our place to save us.

- The Lord knew we could not be sinless so He planned His death on Calvary. *Hebrews 9:26b ...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*
- God sent the Holy Spirit to convict and convince us of our sins. *John 16: 7-8 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*
- His Holy Word guides us to live a life that stays within His safe confines. *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- The Lord has gone to prepare a place for us. *John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

God wants us to understand His love for us. God's Word instructs us to a better life instead of being torn to bits by the Devil.

God knows that we have eternity ahead and how important it is to accept Him as Lord and Savior so we will spend it with Him in Heaven instead of spending eternity in torment in a place called Hell.

God says that He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

This book, the Bible, is not a book of rules. It is a book of love that instructs us away from danger and destruction.

Present Salvation Here.