***Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?***

We’re with the prophet Amos this morning. Amos is one of my favorite prophets. He prophesied in 760 BC, just before Israel was conquered by the Assyrians. Amos 7:14 suggests he was a reluctant prophet, being a sheep breeder and tender of sycamore fruit before he was called to be a servant of God. He states – I was no prophet, nor the son of a prophet – in verse 15, he says - *Then the****Lord took*** *me as I followed the flock, And the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to My people Israel.* God called. Amos wasn’t looking to be called. God called. Amos agreed. The question for us all this morning is – are we in agreement with God? Not – is God in agreement with me… but am I surrendered in agreement with God?

 Our scripture this morning says - *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?* Now, many times we read this and think about walking with our church, our spouse, our co-workers, or our friends and family. All of these do apply. But this is not the highest idea of this scripture. In this chapter, God is speaking to the children of Israel, the family that He brought up out of Egypt. God asks, “Can two walk together?” The two He is speaking specifically about here is His children and Himself. Can God’s people walk in love and communion with God unless they are first agreed with God? And the answer is No. The children of Israel prayed, sacrificed, gave, and probably believed that they were walking with God. In the end, it didn’t matter what they believed. They were in disagreement with God by way of their sin and rebellion. The fact that they sort of agreed, kind of followed, served when they felt like it was not partial agreement with God, but disagreement with God. God asks us this morning – Can two walk together unless they are agreed? He asks me. He asks you.

 Let’s look specifically at the portion – *unless they are agreed*? Amos and God are agreed. They are of one mind together. Amos is surrendered to God. God has given him this prophecy and Amos, though he knows it will bring derision, hatred, judgement, and rejection upon him, agrees with God. He walks in unity with God. He walks in the Presence and Peace of God. It’s better to be at Peace with God and at odds with people than at peace with people and at odds with God. People make us uncomfortable in a place. God makes uncomfortable inside ourselves.

Are we one mind with God? Each morning, as I pray, one of the first things I say is – God, I am in agreement with You. You chose me before the foundations of the world. I choose You O God this morning and, by choosing You, I give my full agreement to Your plan. My thoughts are not God’s thoughts. His ways are higher, deeper, wider, and richer than I can comprehend. His plan is greater than I can imagine. What a privilege to be included by God in His magnificent story.

Often, we don’t have agreement in our relationships and, in honesty, we like to believe that it’s everyone else’s problem. There’s strife at work, arguing in the home, disagreement with friends, and bitterness in all areas of life. We don’t walk together, but far apart, with contention, complaining, bickering, and sadness our only true companions. Agreement with self brings loneliness and separation.

In the Bible, we learn of two different roots. One is the Root of Jesse, meaning Jesus, found in Isaiah 11:12. In Hebrews 12: 14-15, we learn of a root of bitterness - *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled*. One Root leads to the Lord Jesus. One root leads away. Verse 14 tells us to pursue peace with all people… sounds like agreement, sounds like surrender, sounds like when we pursue peace and holiness, through the Root of Jesse, we will see the Lord. Does it say wait until everyone apologizes and pronounces you right? No. It tells us to pursue peace, run after holiness. We must look carefully at what we have allowed to grow in our garden. We cannot walk with God if we are not pursuing peace and holiness with our neighbor.

This week, let’s take time to examine what is growing in our hearts. Root of Jesse, from which springs *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control* or root of bitterness from which springs sin such as cursing, idolatry, hatred, contentions, jealousies, anger, selfish ambitions, envy, and more. Can two walk together unless they are agreed? Can we truly walk with God if we disagree or only partially agree with God? Can we truly be His disciples if we keep only the commandments we like? God gives us the answer. If you have been in disagreement with God, make this the week to seek His hand. Surrender to full agreement with God, let Him remove the things blocking communion from your life, and ask Him to restore the Peace and Joy of walking with Him in unity of Spirit, truly of One mind. *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*Let’s make this week the week that we come to full and final agreement with God.