

Amos 6:1-7

“Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel come! Go to Kalneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours? You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror. You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.” NIV

This past week was our daughter Marie's birthday and she wanted me to make her crepes for her birthday. I tried to get out of doing it and said I was busy, I said I had things to do but Patricia, well let's just say I made Marie crepes. This had me thinking about birthdays, what was the biggest birthday celebration I ever helped with? My biggest event I think I ever planned was Patricia's 50th birthday. People from all over were invited, either by phone, email, or cards. I lined up a cook who brought in other cooks, and he brought his gas grill and deep fryer to cook everything. I lined up people to set up and decorate the fellowship hall and kept everything a secret, which was some job since we lived across the street from the church. Everything went off without a hitch she never knew, that was until as we were walking to the church that night she noticed Russ cooking and turned to me and said NO! But it was too late and when she walked in everyone and everything went great.

I'd like you, right now to think of a special birthday, graduation, or maybe anniversary and how you just had to create the perfect celebration. You pulled out all the stops. Maybe you planned the event as a surprise. All the right people were contacted; all the decorations were put up, if decorations were needed; all the food was prepared and/or ordered; every

minute detail was seen too or handled by you. Nothing was spared, not your time, your effort; what you spent ... think about all you did just to create the perfect day. The day arrives the celebration goes off without a hitch everything was perfect and everyone was well pleased with everything you did to make the celebration special. Can you remember that or maybe all those events?

Think about this; what I just described involved much planning, it involved both mental and physical effort, it involved money and in some cases a lot of money. Think about everything you did to accomplish what you did. You have that visualized? Now explain again to fellow worshippers explain to the children, explain the youth about why you can't? Explain to them about how you do not have the time; explain to them about how much you can't; explain to them about how you come to worship, you worship by not participating; explain to them how it's kind-of-important just not real important; explain to them why there are not enough monies to do; explain to them about what you don't know how to do; explain to them about how you did it long enough and you need a break; explain to them about how your children are grown and you're done. Explain to God. When is enough enough? When are we going to fully commit to Christ?

Whoa preacher you need to back up, you have no idea all I have done around here, you have no idea how much I do on my job every day let alone every week; you have no idea all I do at my home every day let alone every week; you have no idea all I do. No I do not know all you do at those places, but I do know the main subject in what was just said was you and Christ was never mentioned.

Look at the first part of the #1 mostly misused verse of Scripture **John 3:16** *“For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son.”* How much did he love us? He loved us so much He gave His son to take our place upon the cross, and as a result what do we do? What?

This past week the worship team met and we discussed how as a team, not an individual worship would be accomplished. One topic was about acolytes, you know the children’s job. Someone explain to me or point out to me where it says children and only children can be acolytes. Let me help you, it doesn’t. What actually is an acolyte? Anyone know? An acolyte is someone who assists a member of the clergy in a liturgical service by performing minor duties: one who attends or assists. This is something every one of us here this morning could and should be doing, but do we? When is enough enough? When are we going to fully commit to Christ?

I was explaining how we truly need greeters at every service to greet before people arrive; I was told we have ushers to do that. Notice I did not say ushers I said greeters. Who could be a greeter, any male or female who is up right and breathing, but they have to commit their time to be in church early, not just 5 minutes early. A greeter is at the door with a friendly greeting and helping visitors with, visitor bags, nursery directions, restroom directions, etc. I brought this up right after we arrived here in Landrum and I was informed everyone knew where everything was and if they didn't ask! This from a long standing member.

I believe if I asked, over half the church may not know where a certain class meets. But we know where everything is right? People it is our responsibility to help visitors when they arrive, but that's someone else's job, I do something else or I'm busy. I Mentioned ushers a moment ago. Ushers should be inside handing out bulletins and also providing friendly greetings, not discussing yesterday's scores while sticking a bulletin in someone's hand. Ushers, following the service then stay to help clean up the left over bulletins and items the people trashed God's sanctuary with while they ... worshipped. Being an usher is a responsibility, just like being a greeter, like being a teacher, working with children, youth, and seniors, serving on a committee or

team. Ushers can be anyone, male or female, but many feel that's not my job. Many I believe consider it upsetting them to have to do anything which requires them to get up and move once in their pew. It should be a privilege not a burden to be part of a worship service. Everyone should be giving in their names to fill these positions of acolytes, greeters, and/or usher but again, I come to worship and that is accomplished by my sitting and not doing. Men, the reason so many women are filling positions within churches today is because of our laziness and complacency. Our actions speak volumes, words are meaningless.

If we were honest and admitted it, each of us, men and women have this strong sense of complacency. We should listen to the Prophet Amos who said in our passage this morning concerning such laziness **Amos 6:4-7:**

“You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will end.” We all have a tendency to concentrate first on our own desire to let someone else handle everything, and then secondarily on others.

We are a privileged people in this country, we have so much to be thankful for, yet how do we show our thankfulness, many do a couple of things and some may do one thing, while others do nothing and believe, I'm covered I attend. Punching your time clock. There is so much we all can do yet because of our complacency we just sit around and let things go.

Individuals shop for churches much like they shop for a car. How will this help me; what do I like about this. Worship services do not just happen; classes and/or studies do not just happen; ministries do not just happen they takes effort, it takes time, it takes commitment. When is enough enough? When are we going to stop playing church fully commit to Christ and start being the church?

Jesus addresses this question in **Luke 12:48**, "*For everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.*" We have all been given much by God; many wonderful gifts and talents. We are to use these gifts well and wisely to make the most of what God has given us. Paul had heard Jesus' parable of the talents and realized his need not to hide but use fully what he had been given. He therefore, could proudly claimed in **2 Timothy 4:7-8** as his ministry was coming to an end: "*I have fought the good fight, I*

have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

There are many reasons why we are less diligent than we should be and most, I believe, have to do with laziness and selfishness. Some believe they do not have the time, but time is found for anything personal we want to do. Some feel inadequate to the tasks a hand, believing that their God-given skills are not sufficient to successfully completing the job, but if they were attempting something for the first time for personal and/or family nothing and/or no one on earth stops them from attempting, and often times attempting more than once. As important as tasks may be and as much as we might want need step up, the same individuals cannot continue to respond to everything. We must choose among the many opportunities which come our way. Problem is few attempt to do too much while the majority feel they don't have to.

One side note for those doing, often times they become territorial about what it is they do and refuse and at times become adversarial to allowing anyone to come in and do what they are doing. This is just a wrong as not doing because to you then deny others their God given opportunity to serve. Ask yourself to I resist others doing? Do I have to do what I do without any one? When is enough enough? When are we going to stop playing church fully commit to Christ and star being the church?

I have been told if we have 20% of the people doing 80% of what needs to be done I should be happy because that is the average, I do not want to settle for average I never have, and I do not believe God seeks average either. God wants our best, He desires a relationship with us, not just an average relationship, and a real relationship requires commitment. When is enough enough? When are we going to stop playing church fully commit to Christ and star being the church?

You have received those Ministry Opportunity Forms you have been asked to pray about this and bring them back next week to bring to the altar and give yourself for to the service of God. When is enough enough? When are we going to stop playing church fully commit to Christ and star being the church?