

This week I was talking with a friend of mine, and he was telling me that he has this grand plan. He has this wonderful, fantastic plan that he is going to do to make the world a better place. Now, my friend is very radical compared to me, and he's way out there. So, I was excited. I'm, like, okay, what is this grand plan that you have? And he said, I am going to make everyone in the world pray at the same time. And I am like, that's a good plan. How are you going to accomplish it? He's like, I don't know, but if I can get everybody to pray all at once, God will have to hear us. That's how we can change the world. So, we talked about that for a little bit, and I kept going, all right. So why, why does it have to be everybody?

Praying is a wonderful thing. It's something that we all do, but why do you need everyone all at once? And he said, if everybody all at once prays and says the exact same thing, God has to hear us. So, we talked about why he thinks that God isn't listening. Why they aren't listening to all of us individually? Why do we have to do it all together? And he said that if God was listening, the world wouldn't be the way it is right now. We'd be in a much different place. There wouldn't be the school shootings. There wouldn't be the corrupt world. There wouldn't be anything. We'd all be happy. We'd all be living in harmony. And it'd be great.

And it's hard. It was hard for me to hear him say that, because in my mind, the first thing I thought of is that he had given up hope. That he had given up hope that the world will right itself. Have you given up hope and recognize that there are people who are doing things? It might not be as grand of a scale as he wants, but that we're still doing things.

So, I asked him if he'd ever read the book of Amos, and he's a good Catholic. So, of course, he did. I said, well, what's the difference between you and Amos? And he didn't understand what I was asking. He's, like, I'm not a prophet. I'm like, no, but you're one man, right? You're one man who recognized that we live in a corrupt, infallible world.

Amos was a farmer, like my friend. It was one guy who lived in the poorest community in Judah. He was just a farmer. So, when God came to him and asked him what he saw, he saw the end. Seeing that the summer fruits were coming, he knew that it was the end. And reading the rest of that chapter, we hear about how corrupt everyone was at that time.

Israel was growing. It was growing tremendously and becoming much, much bigger. The people in power did everything they could to remain in power. And they knew that they set up all of their shops. If they set up all of their markets during the Sabbath, then the poorest people, the people who were in the greatest need, would come to them because they would start lining up on the Sabbath. They would break their own Commandments because there was such a great need for money, for food, for water, for clothing, for shelter. And the other people, the people in power were taking full

advantage of that. The most corrupt people are taking advantage of that. All their scales were offset, so they were purchasing, they made sure that the weights of the item they're purchasing was less so they would have to pay less. They would offer less, so when they would pay the people for their offer, Or they buy the slaves. They would pay them in silver and set up dinaris because silver was half the value of a Dunari. They did everything they could to keep the poor down. They did everything they could to keep all of those people, suffering and dependent upon those in power.

And Amos recognized that this was just going to keep going. And this one man started gathering followers. And he started talking to people about praying and recognizing the strength of prayer. Even though he also wanted the entire world to pray at one time, so God would hear them, he started with just himself. He started praying, and then he'd go to these markets, and he'd pray at the markets. And he would continue on, and the more people started praying and more people and more people. And I told my friend, is it just as important that Amos did these things as it is that you do these things?

We can't expect the world to just fix itself one day. We can't expect everybody to just come forward and all of a sudden break out in prayer. But we do know that we can pray. We know that we can take a day and all pray. We don't have to say the same words. We don't have to say the same meaning. We don't have to pray for the same things. But if we pray to God each and every day, and we start with ourselves, we start living that life that we want. Other people will follow. Other people will hear the words that you're saying. They'll hear the importance of prayer, and eventually we can get to that spot where we can all pray. Let us pray.