

“But Amos replied, “I’m not a professional prophet, and I was never trained to be one. I’m just a shepherd, and I take care of sycamore-fig trees. But the Lord called me away from my flock and told me, ‘Go and prophesy to my people in Israel.’” Amos 7:14-15 NLT

## [lectio] // AMOS 7:1-17

In this chapter Amos has three visions. One a famine by locusts, the other by fire that consumes everything and the third a plumb line measuring how well the people of Israel line up with truth, the law. The first two Amos begs God to relent and tells him, “they can’t survive.” God relents! God withdraws his plans to destroy. It’s interesting that the famine would have struck AFTER the king harvested his portion, meaning to things: 1) The calamity would strike the people of Israel NOT its leaders and 2) The king would have food and be willing to let his people starve - thus a bad king. The third vision is inescapable, so Amos has to warn the king. One of the priests, Amaziah, from Bethel, hears about the warning and directly tells the king that this little known prophet is planning to kill him - TREASON. Why is a warning always considered treason? The. Amaziah strangely warns Amos to get out of town and take his cheap, inexperienced prophetic warning with him. Amos tells the priest exactly what is in store for Amaziah’s family. Then he recounts this story, his story of how it came about that an “untrained” no name prophet and not the son of a prophet can make such a bold warning... because it came from God and the “professionals” quit listening.

## [oratio]

Dad,

I don’t want to be one of those guys, in leadership or not, that quits listening to you and becomes so distracted, so preoccupied by my own self interests that I directly disobey you and lead those in my care to do the same. I can relate to the “untrained” lack of ministerial breeding, but I pray that you use my past, my story in any way you desire. I come from a broken home, a broken family and a broken story - but you have called me, transformed me and prepared me to advance your kingdom!