

Amos 8**8-22-02****“BAD APPLES!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. In 1971 Donny Osmond once said, “One bad apple don't spoil the whole bunch girl Ooooooh - Give it one more try before you give up on love - One bad apple don't spoil the whole bunch girl – Ooooooh - I don't care what they say, I don't care what you've heard”.
 - 1.1.1. That is **true** in his context of - If one bad boy comes along don't think that all guys are going to treat you that way.
 - 1.1.2. It **isn't true** when we refer to a bad apple as SIN! – It **WILL** spoil the whole bunch girl!
- 1.2. **Outline: Ripe Fruit!(1-3) Rotten Fruit!(4-6) Ripe Remembrance!(7-10) Removed Food!(11-14)**

2. BAD APPLES! (1-14)

- 2.1. **5th vision** – The vision of a basket of summer fruit.
- 2.2. **RIPE FRUIT!** (1-3)
- 2.3. (1) **Verse one seems nice!** – We all lie summer fruit! But the Hebrew word & the context both show us God is speaking about **end of summer** fruit. fruit that is “**too**” ripe. We are talking about **brown bananas**. He means **rotten fruit!**
 - 2.3.1. If the Lord wanted to use an analogy today in our Valley I believe he would use a **Basket of fish from Lake Elsinore this week!**
 - 2.3.1.1. From a distance you would think great...**fresh fish**...Then when you get closer & notice it is **not** fresh, but instead they are bloated & not fresh!
- 2.4. (2) **Ripe Fruit & Ripe Time!**
 - 2.4.1. These words **look & sound** alike. And Amos used one to lead to another.
 - 2.4.2. **Summer(ripe) fruit** = a-keetz
 - 2.4.3. **The end** = ha-ketz.
 - 2.4.4. **This Vision has one clear message...“The end is come & Israel, like summer fruit, has ripened for judgment.”**
 - 2.4.4.1. As **the farmer** cuts off **ripe fruit**, so **God** will cut off **Israel**.

- 2.4.5. Fully ripe...in their sins! – Ripe for Ruin!
- 2.4.6. **Q:** What is more fragile than summer fruit? It is so beautiful, so refreshing, yet so readily corrupted & diseased.
- 2.4.7. When the harvest comes, separation between good & bad is inevitable!
- 2.4.7.1. Is.5:4 “What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth **good grapes**, Did it bring forth **wild grapes**?”
- 2.5. **ROTTEN FRUIT!** (4-6)
- 2.6. *3 charges against them:*
- 2.7. (4) **[1] They took advantage of the poor & needy!**
- 2.8. (5a) **[2] They were weary of religious duties!**
- 2.8.1. They complained about holy days interfering w/**business**!
- 2.8.2. **New moon** – Lunar calendar.
- 2.8.3. **Sabbath** – Nehemiah said, “In those days I saw people in Judah treading wine presses **on the Sabbath**, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys with wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the **Sabbath day**. And I warned them about the day on which they were selling provisions.” (Neh.13:15)
- 2.8.4. **Ephah**(measures) **small & shekel large** – Lev.19:35,36 “You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume. You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest ephah, and an honest hin: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.”
- 2.8.5. **Q:** Didn't our country ask the same questions about 50 years ago?
2.8.5.1. [i.e. being open Sundays]
- 2.8.6. Really, we should **all** weary of religious duty!...If that's all it is!
- 2.8.7. Now some just live for weekends, but others only live for their work!
- 2.8.8. **Q:** Have you ever just “*endured*” your day of rest(Sunday)? - You just couldn't wait to start making money again.
- 2.9. (5b,6) **[3] They set excessive prices to gouge the poor!**
- 2.9.1. They cheapened their products & then raised the prices.
- 2.9.2. What ever happened to “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might**”?

- 2.10. **RIPE REMEMBRANCE!** (7-10)
- 2.11. (7) I will never forget...as opposed to “I will remember no more!”
- 2.12. **Amos said:**
- 2.12.1. “Expect an **Earthquake!**” (8a) {see 1:1}
 - 2.12.2. “Expect an **Eclipse!**” (9)
 - 2.12.3. “Expect a **Funeral!**” (10)
 - 2.12.4. “Expect a **Famine!**” (see next section 11-14)
- 2.13. **REMOVED FOOD!** (11-14)
- 2.14. My wrath will not only come via **natural calamities**, but also in the **famine of Gods word.**
- 2.15. (11) *A spiritual food shortage! – A water of the Word drought!*
- 2.15.1. They **would not listen** to the Word when they had opportunity; **therefore**, He will **take His Word away** from them.
 - 2.15.2. Jesus spoke of His Word as our spiritual nourishment, “**It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’**”
 - 2.15.2.1. **There is no substitute!** – Some things just can’t be substituted for the original!
 - 2.15.2.2. (i.e.) **Imitation Crab**(Mikey). - **Best Foods Mayonnaise!** - **Oreo Cookies**(new peanut butter/choc.)
 - 2.15.2.3. **There is no substitute!**
 - 2.15.2.4. “When God’s people **reject** His word, He sometimes judges them by **removing** His word & leaving them to go **hungry...as they live on substitutes.**” (www)
 - 2.15.3. **Q:** What **substitutes** have you tried? What taste did it leave in your mouth?
- 2.16. (14) In that day their idols at Dan & Beersheba will do them no good.
- 2.17. **Let’s talk about FRUIT!**
- 2.18. **Q:** What *fruit picture* would God use today in describing your spiritual life?
- 2.18.1. **Q:** What fruit itself might you be likened to & why?
 - 2.18.2. **Q:** Or, what level of sp. growth would He say you are at? {a bud, growing, firm, ripe, rotting, or rotten?}
- 2.19. The Lord has a lot to say in Scripture about fruit & fruit trees.
- 2.19.1. In fact he said, “**by their fruits you will know them!**” (Mt.7:20)
 - 2.19.2. We know **beautiful fruit** is the sign of a **healthy tree.**

- 2.20. Let's look remind ourselves what biblical fruit is & how to bear it!
- 2.21. **Fruit Facts?**
- 2.22. We know there are 2 classes of fruit, good & bad. "Every good tree bears **good fruit**, but a bad tree bears **bad fruit**."
- 2.22.1. **Sin** produces **smelly** fruit in your life.
- 2.22.2. **The H.S.** produces **His** fruit in your life.
- 2.22.3. **Jack fruit vs. a peach** I had this week.
- 2.22.3.1. **Jack Fruit** – Smelliest fruit. Banned from restaurants in Iloilo.
- 2.22.3.2. **Peach** – was cold, perfectly ripe, satisfied me the partaker.
- 2.23. In **Gal.5:22,23** we 1st notice "fruit" not "fruits"!
- 2.23.1. Unity, like a *bunch* of grapes!
- 2.23.2. **ALL** of these should be found in **ALL** Christians!
- 2.23.2.1. Diff. from gifts (1x1 to diff. people)
- 2.23.3. Quick definition by Donald Grey Barnhouse. "**Love** is the key. **Joy** is love singing. **Peace** is love resting. **Long-suffering** is love enduring. **Kindness** is love's touch. **Goodness** is love's character. **Faithfulness** is love's habit. **Gentleness** is love's self-forgetfulness. **Self-control** is love holding the reins."
- 2.23.4. **3 categories:**
- 2.23.5. **Love, Joy, Peace = Inner Attitudes** sourced in God.
- 2.23.6. **Long-suffering, Kindness, Goodness = Relational Qualities** expressed to others.
- 2.23.7. **Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control = Personal Qualities** that guides individual conduct.¹
- 2.23.7.1. Little girl thought it said "Remote-Control!" (we wish)
- 2.24. **Fruit Wasting!**
- 2.24.1. We know fruit is wasted if it's left on the tree!
- 2.24.2. (i.e. **Love**) What if you have love...but don't give it away?
- 2.24.3. **Fruit is meant to be:** touched, picked, displayed, smelled, tasted, & eaten.
- 2.24.4. **Fruit** only helps your physical body **when** it goes *beyond the tree*.
- 2.24.5. **Likewise, sp. fruit** only helps the body of Christ when it goes *beyond ourselves*.

2.25. Fruit Bearing!

2.25.1. We are not called upon to **produce** the fruit, but simply to **bear** it.²

2.25.2. **Q:** Ever see a fruit tree **straining** or **bearing down** to grow fruit?

2.25.3. Do not confound **work** and **fruit**. - There may be a good deal of *work for Christ* that is **not** the fruit of the heavenly Vine.³

2.25.4. **We are all controlled by some outside force!** (LAB notes)

2.25.5. **Some by the Law** – yet they are condemned by not being able to keep it.

2.25.6. **Some by sin** – & they are destroyed by their own evil actions.

2.25.7. **Some by the H.S.** – & thus they produce the fruit of Galatians.

2.25.8. If we want this fruit to develop in our lives we must recognize these all are found **in Christ**.

2.25.8.1. Thus the way to “grow them” is to **join** our lives to Him!

2.25.8.2. Jn. 15:4,5 “**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**”

2.25.9. So, fruit is a natural product of the **Spirit** rather than of **man**; made possible by the *living relationship* between the Christian & God.

2.26. Fruit Timing!

2.27. It is said in praise of the tree (*firmly planted by the rivers of water*) that it brings forth its fruit **in its season**. (Spurgeon said...)

2.27.1. **Good men should aim to have seasonable virtues.**

For instance, *a forgiving spirit* is **golden** if it displays itself in the moment when an injury is received.

It is but **silver** if it shows itself on speedy reflection.

And it is **merely lead** if it be manifested only after a long time of cooling.⁴

2.28. **Fruit Filling!** (no, not those little fruit pies!)

2.29. **Q:** How do we know if we are “full of the spirits fruit”?

2.29.1. Picture a **water-saturated sponge**. If you push down with your finger even slightly, water runs out onto the table. **We immediately know what fills the interior pockets of the sponge**. The same is true of ourselves. **We can tell what fills us on the inside by what comes out under pressure.**

¹ Chuck Swindoll pg.121; Galatians commentary.

² Roy Hession in The Calvary Road. Christianity Today, Vol. 33, no. 13.

³ Andrew Murray, Leadership, Vol. 8, no. 4.

⁴ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, The Quotable Spurgeon, (Wheaton: Harold Shaw Publishers, Inc, 1990)