

INTRO - So what's your destiny? What were you created for?

That's what we're going to hear about today –

the readings today remind me of something I saw at South Station

- Woman on the train station with a sad dog in the crate.
 - Conductor 'he chewed of his tag and we don't know where he's going'
 - Do we know where we're going?
 - Are you going where YOU want to go – or where GOD wants you to go?
 - EPH "we have been chosen before the world began" WHY?
"To be holy and without blemish before Him"
 - HOW ON EARTH CAN I BE HOLY BEFORE GOD? That's what we'll learn today

LET US PRAY

AMOS – 1st reading

- AMOS – expelled from sanctuary in Bethel by High Priest – because his prophecy was harsh
Then THIS HAPPENS - READ IT

AMOS "You think I wanted this? I was a dresser of Sycamores"

The Lord took me – **he heard the call and responded – Do we?**

We each have our own destiny – just like Amos – gifted, blessed & challenged

- Amos wasn't going to turn away from God's call only to prophesy 'happy prophecies'
 1. Amos prophesied what needed to be said – we need to do what's needed too -
as fathers, husbands, sons, as Christian Men!
 - Are we willing to do what's right – even when it's unpopular?
 - Are we willing to hear God speak to us – even when it's a call to repent?
 - What if God sends you to:
 - To the friend that drinks too much To the friend that uses crack – or weed
 - To the co-worker that's stealing from the company
 - To the friend who leaves his wife or husband home and goes to the sweetheart
- Amos went when he really didn't want to - and proclaimed the truth.

If we are as faithful as Amos was – God will not abandon us

THUS PS 85 we pray "Lord let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation" READ IT

This is our prayer in NSJ – we want His kindness/His salvation – day by day by day

So we can fulfill our destiny – WHICH IS WHAT EPH is all about READ IT

When we started this service I mentioned that EPH said "we have been chosen before the world began"

WHY? "To be holy & without blemish before Him"

Then I asked HOW ON EARTH CAN I BE HOLY BEFORE GOD?

- When I was ordained part of the Ordination Rite: Given Book of Gospels
- "**Believe** what you read – **Teach** what you believe – **Practice** what you teach"
 - *Not limited to the Deacon- the call to holiness is OUR call*
 - *I give you these little bibles – BELIEVE – TEACH - PRACTICE*

If we do that – Jesus' directions to Apostles can be ours

- Jesus told Apostles to "expel demons, anoint the sick, preach repentance"

WE should be able to expel demons (from our families, our jobs, our neighborhood, our town)

- **Let me ask you:**
- What is the goal of the Christian husband? Get your wife to heaven
- What is the goal of Christian wife? Get your hubby to heaven
- What is the goal of Church? Get each other to heaven
 - Look around – what are you doing to get the guy in the next pew to heaven?
 - Life is a LONG JOURNEY – it will be hard (but you are not alone!)

EPH says '**We are predestined to be holy and without blemish before Him**'

EPH also says "In Christ we were also chosen – so we might exist for the praise of His glory"

YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN – to give God glory – let us glorify Christ and grow KOG