

The Relentless Love of God - Hosea

Cornerstone Community Church 081124

Do you ever wonder if God cares? Do you ever wonder if God really loves you? His church? Does God pursue us? Is God actively engaged in life as we know it or is He removed and distant?

Hosea 1:1-10

God knows what it is like to be betrayed by people he loved.

In spite of bad behavior God remained faithful.

This is our story. God has showered us with his love. Offered us hope in the work of Christ. Promised us life could be different if we followed Him.

Hosea brings this message of banishment but offers hope.

Redemption is demonstrated in Hosea 3.

¹The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

² So I bought her for fifteen shekels^[a] of silver and about a homer and a lethek^[b] of barley. ³ Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

Hosea’s action would symbolize God’s love and act of redemption for this nation.

¹Return, Israel, to the Lord your God.

Your sins have been your downfall!

**²Take words with you
and return to the Lord.**

Say to him:

**“Forgive all our sins
and receive us graciously,
that we may offer the fruit of our lips.^[b]”**

**³ Assyria cannot save us;
we will not mount warhorses.
We will never again say ‘Our gods’
to what our own hands have made,
for in you the fatherless find compassion.”**

**⁴“I will heal their waywardness
and love them freely,
for my anger has turned away from them.**

**⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
he will blossom like a lily.**

**Like a cedar of Lebanon
he will send down his roots;**

**⁶ his young shoots will grow.
His splendor will be like an olive tree,**

his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.

⁷ People will dwell again in his shade;

they will flourish like the grain,

they will blossom like the vine—

Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ Ephraim, what more have I [to] do with idols?

I will answer him and care for him.

I am like a flourishing juniper;

your fruitfulness comes from me."

⁹ Who is wise? Let them realize these things.

Who is discerning? Let them understand.

The ways of the Lord are right;

the righteous walk in them,

but the rebellious stumble in them.

Through Hosea's life and prophecy God is literally calling out to the wayward nation, "Come home!"

THIS STORY CREATES QUESTIONS I ASK MYSELF: **How does the prophet speak to us today? What in this story extends to us? How do you hear the story of a prophet marrying a prostitute? Do you hear the invitation to come home no matter what**

you have been? No matter where you find yourself today? No matter who you are in the eyes of others?

It is a call to those who proclaim to be followers of Jesus – come home.

It is a call to those who have yet to express faith in Jesus – come home.