

Hosea 2:2-17 A Door of Hope

(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

Dr. Thomas Holmes was a researcher at the University of Washington

A) He did research on the subject of Human Stress.

B) He came up with an interesting way of measuring stress

C) He gave "Life Change Units" to the different life experiences that people dealt with.

D) If you reached 300 Life Change Units in a given year you were a good candidate to have some major health problems.

Examples of the Stress levels – major events in a life:

- ❖ The death of one's spouse would incur 100 Life Change Units (LCU) – really high
- ❖ Going through a divorce – 73 LCU
- ❖ Personal injury or illness - 53 LCU
- ❖ Job Loss – 47 LCU
- ❖ RETIREMENT 45 LCU – interesting one would not expect
- ❖ Pregnancy – 40 LCU

A man did this study – obviously clueless about pregnancy = Body stretching - person growing inside – own schedule

Life is not your own – throwing up - Stressful
He put pregnancy at 40 – you much higher – 120

- ❖ Son or daughter leaving home – 29 LCU – some higher – some lower
- ❖ Remodeling a home – 25 LCU – Obviously never done that.

Researchers rank remodeling - stress level – somewhere between infidelity and a meddling mother-in-law

A) When Your wife – brings up remodeling – I don't think our marriage is strong enough to handle it –

B) Go to Thrive - \$20 dinner – or \$1000's in remodeling - (Couples retreat in 2017)

Based on Dr. Holmes research Hosea would have been a major stress case

A) First of all He had a really tough Job – He was God's prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel

B) After the death of Solomon – the Nation of Israel was divided – Judah in the south – tended to be more godly – Had Great kings

C) Israel in the north – IS 90% of time Horrible – that is where Hosea is assigned

D) On top of that – Hosea is given a VERY unusual assignment

God asked Hosea to marry and have children with a woman who was a Prostitute – Gomer.

A) Why would God do that?

Aa) That seems like a contradiction in the character of God to ask one of his servants to do something like that?

B) The ministry of the Prophet was like Spiritual radios – they were receivers and they were transmitters –

1) They would RECEIVE a message from God – and they would TRANSMIT a message for God!

C) Sometimes their message was a strong PROCLAMATION – an exhortation to the people to get right with God.

D) Other times their message was a PREDICTION of future events – of coming judgment or blessing.

E) Sometimes their message was a DEMONSTRATION – an illustration they acted out with their life.

For example: God had the prophet Isaiah go around for 3 yrs barefoot and naked – as an illustration of the spiritual poverty and nakedness of Israel

A) Sure glad I did not get that assignment ! – SIT UPS AND WORKED HIS CORE

B) The life and message of Hosea WAS an illustration of the heart of God – how God feels when His people commit spiritual idolatry -

1)Running after and worshipping other gods

C)That is the main reason – why God asked him to marry a prostitute – **for an illustration**

1)On Wed night we will consider in some further detail – How and why God asked Hosea to do that

D)God knows that we need illustrations and pictures – to help us understand His heart – His Ways

E)The Life of Hosea was a living illustration of the **HEART OF GOD**

Begin reading in V. 2 Bring charges against your mother, bring charges; For she *is* not My wife, nor *am* I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, And her adulteries from between her breasts;³ Lest I strip her naked And expose her, as in the day she was born, And make her like a wilderness, And set her like a dry land, And slay her with thirst.

Hosea marries Gomer – they have some kids – but it is not long before she returns to a lifestyle of being a Harlot.

A)Imagine the hurt and pain Hosea must have felt – this woman he loved giving herself away to other men.

B)Imagine the whispers – Men laughing at Hosea behind his back –

1)One man – I had her last night – his friend laughing – I had her the night before.

C)Imagine the pain in the heart of Hosea trying to explain **to his kids why mommy was not at home** – yet again for another night

D)The situation comes to a head and Hosea is left with no recourse but to cast her out!

E)It is the same recourse that God is forced to take when His people rebel and go whoring after other lovers – other gods

But severity of this word of DISCIPLINE is interrupted by a word of hope and comfort –

A)We are reminded of the **PURPOSE** of the discipline.

V.14 “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness,

And speak comfort to her.

15 I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.

16 “And it shall be, in that day,” Says the LORD, “That you will call Me ‘My Husband,’ And no longer call Me ‘My Master,’

17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more.

Hebrews 12:6 “The Lord disciplines the ones He loves.” But the purpose of the Discipline is to restore –

A)Get our attention – get us to see the foolishness of our ways – turn back to following Him – again.

B)Note V.15 The Valley of Achor as a door of Hope!

1)This is the major point of Hosea – see Achor means troubling – **The valley of troubling is a door of Hope!**

C)The Valley of Achor was the last place that Israel would have expected to **ACCESS** hope.

1)The name Achor was synonymous with moral failure.

D)Joshua 7 records a humiliating event that took place in the nation of Israel

1)Coming into the land of Canaan – first battle – Jericho

E)God gave very clear distinct instructions – **TAKE NO SPOILS**

But a man named Achan, one individual out of the entire nation, chose to be disobedient.

A)He took some silver, a bar of gold, and a robe for his own use, and buried them under the floor of his tent.

B)The next battle is against a very small city Ai – “we don’t need the whole army” – they are soundly defeated – **CASUALTIES**

C)Joshua is bummed and confused – God reveals –

Sin in the camp – it is discovered that Achan disobeyed –

1) Family helped hide - So they are all put to death in a Valley – that Joshua names after Achan - the Valley of Achor or troubling!

D) That story of humiliation, failure, and shame was burned into Israel's national memory.

1) Like Crosses next to the HWY – auto accident – result of a drunk driver!

But here we are told the Valley of Achor is a door of Hope. Two main ideas to consider today.

#1 How is the Valley of troubling a door or Hope?

#2 How could Hosea LOVE Gomer again after she played the Harlot?

#1 How is the Valley of troubling a door or Hope.

A) Troubling and Hope are two ideas placed in close connection, and declared to be inter-related, which we would hardly have thought of putting together.

B) You are in trouble young man - never thought – Awesome something good is going to come out of this!

C) We never put **trouble and hope** together - except that sometimes we say that, in spite of the trouble, we are hoping for the best.

C) That phrase “in spite of the trouble” recognizes a conflict between trouble and hope.

1) The only Hope is the expectation that we shall somehow escape from trouble.

D) But The declaration here relates them to each other.

The troubling is the reason of hope, “The valley of troubling for a door of hope.”

A) How could this be? - This gives us insight into the heart of God for those that He loves

Aa) Troubling is the inherent RESULT of sin. Sin brings trouble! Sin brings destruction.

B) Consider these verses describing the destruction that sin brings

- ❖ **The wages of sin is death** – Romans 6:23
- ❖ **Sin brings forth death** – James 1:15

❖ **Wide is the road that leads to destruction** – Matthew 7:13

❖ **To be carnally minded is death** – Romans 6:8

C) Sin destroys intimacy – Genesis 3 NAKED AND ASHAMED!

Sometimes in the midst of our rebellion – God’s discipline takes the form of His hand of blessing and protection being lifted.

A) He leaves us to the consequences of our sin.

B) The result of Gomer's sin of Harlotry was trouble – She ends up living as a slave – sexual slave to her pimp

1) **Older and less desirable** - She is cast out into the Valley of Achor the valley of troubling.

C) So How can the Valley of troubling become a door of hope?

D) Sometimes in the midst of living in the consequences of our sin – **our eyes are opened** – we **come to our senses** – SEE OUR FOOLISHNESS.

Prodigal son – Dad, I want my inheritance – I wish you were dead

A) Blew it on wild living – Parties – prostitutes – craziness

B) Hedonistic living – pursuing pleasure – at all COST!

C) **LOST EVERYTHING** – **famine** – **PIG PEN** – his valley of Achor

1) That young man came to his senses – I have sinned – God – my father

Another way he came to his senses is he realized what he forfeited – My father’s servants have it better than this.

A) **I will go back and see if he would take me on as a servant – no longer worthy to be his son.**

B) **Heart of repentance – I don’t deserve anything – I don’t deserve to be forgiven.**

1) **CHEAP GRACE** – I will sin – God will forgive –

C) **Need to Own our sin – I don’t deserve forgiveness!**

The valley of troubling that is often the result of sin – CAN LEAD to the door of hope – The prodigal says – I will go home

A)Gomer says I will return to my husband – the sinner says – I will turn from my sin – and turn back to God

B) The story of Hosea teaches us 4 things about God.

1st God suffers when His people are unfaithful – He Hurts for us - not like us

2nd God cannot tolerate/condone sinful behavior He lets us suffer the consequences of our sin – part of His discipline

3rd God still loves the sinner in spite of their sin – He never stops loving

4th God seeks out the broken sinner to Restore him.

C)Gomer comes to her senses – She wants to go home – problem is she is a slave – she can't just leave.

God will come to Hosea with a 2nd message – buy her back – Go pay money to get your wife who is a Whore – to get her back

A)And love her again. Don't believe me – Ch.3 V1

Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman *who is* loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods and love the raisin cakes of the pagans.”

B)Leads us to consider big idea #2 How could Hosea LOVE Gomer again after she played the Harlot?

C)There is a wonderful – principle that we see in scripture that is illustrated in many places – 1)Hosea's life is one of them.

D)The Principle is basically this: God's commandments are God's enablements –

1)God does not ask us to do anything that he doesn't give us the power to do

But here is the hitch – We usually don't sense the power until we follow through on the command

A)Crossing the Jordan – Flood season – God says – priest bearing Ark – get your feet wet – { Waters will part

B)Part the waters and I will get my feet wet! – God says you step out in faith and obedience and watch what I do!

C)If most of us were Hosea – we would say: Lord change my heart – put a fresh love in my heart for Gomer and then I will go buy her back.

D)God says – Go buy her back – and treat her with Love

1)God knows – As Hosea goes through the steps and acts in obedience to love his wayward wife – His heart is going to change

E)He is going to fall in love with her again – Exactly what happens

A young 21 year old girl was talking to her Pastor about answering God's call to go and be a missionary in China

A)He said to her - I am so glad you love the Chinese people well enough to give your life to them.”

B)To which she quickly replied, too be honest I don't love the Chinese. I have absolutely no love for them. I rather dislike them.

C)To which the Pastor replied “ Why then are you going to china to be a missionary?” “

D)This was her reply - Because I love my Lord, and He has told me to go.”

She was gone for several years after which she returned to the states for her first Furlough –

She went to visit her Pastor – She said, “Do you remember what I said to you in this room when I was going out to China? ”

Yes,” he said, “I very well remember.”

She said, “I told you I did not love the Chinese one bit and I was telling you the truth, but I love them now.

I went because I loved my Lord, but now I love them, and I did not even want to come home on furlough.”

That is what God does – when we step out in obedience to do what we don't feel like doing – or think is impossible for us to do

A) God meets us – God works in us – He changes our hearts

B) God can change our hearts – but He will not change our minds – He is not going to violate our free will – Doesn't force us

C) God can change our hearts but He will not change our minds – **However if we change our minds – Repentance – Change of mind – attitude – action**

D) If we change our minds – walk in God's way - Forgive when he says forgive – love when he says to love

Love and forgiveness are simply emotions – they are actions words

A) We act in a way that demonstrates love – or demonstrates forgiveness we change our minds about – how we will treat

B) When we change our minds it opens the door for God to change our hearts

C) Philippians 2:12,13 **“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”**

D) Works in V.13 is the word energize –

We do our part – We walk in obedience – God meets us to energize us

A) We discover that God's commandments are really God's enablements

B) Is God asking you to do something – seems difficult – impossible?

C) You step out in faith and obedience –

1) He is going to energize you to do the very thing he is calling you to do.

D) If you wait around for him to change your heart – wait for him to energize – probably not going to happen

1) You step out – He is going to meet you **ON THE WAY!** - in the midst

As we close today – communion – I want us to consider – how Jesus in His hour of trouble became our door of Hope.

²⁷ “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour?’ But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify Your name.” – John 12:27,28

A) Jesus was referring to the Cross – a Valley of Achor – a valley of troubling that was not the result of HIS SIN

B) But His willingness to go there because of our sin.

1) Concern for God's glory –

C) Hosea – God's glory

1) Missionary Girl – God's glory

Jesus stepped into that Valley – went to the Cross – endured the Wrath

A) Like Hosea went to purchase his wife out of Slavery – Redeemed her **Redeem = to buy back**

B) Jesus left heaven and came to earth to purchase or redeem us – To buy us back out of the slave market of sin

C) So that sinners like you and me – Have the hope of Salvation

We come to Him – Turn from our sin!

You in a Valley of Achor today –

A) Your sin has caused trouble – you are reaping the consequences of your rebellion

B) Jesus already paid the price – He says – Free – step out – follow him – be restored today

C) Never responded – first time

Today is the Day!