

Hosea Notes
By Pastor Rob Salvato

Hosea 1-3
The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 1
(The Minor Prophets)

Hosea 2:2-17
A Door of Hope
(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

Hosea 1-3

The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 1

Tonight we are beginning a study in the book of Hosea – part of our Through the Bible study – in the OT. – Minor Prophets – {this summer – complete OT

A) Minor prophets vs Major prophets – not minor leaguers { or B group - **Southwest – airlines**

B) No the distinction has to do with the length of their messages

1) Isaiah Jeremiah Ezekiel – Lots to say – longwinded

C) **Jeremiah 52 Chapters** – 1364 verses

Isaiah – 66 Chapters 1291 verses

Ezekiel – 48 Chapters 1271 verses

Daniel – 14 Chapters 530 verses

C) **Hosea 14 chapters** but only 197 verses

Zechariah longest Minor Prophet also has 14 Chapters only 211 verses

D) So the minor prophets were shorter and to the point

The book of Hosea is the first of the Minor prophets and it is fascinating book – Unique because of the story behind the message.

Author: The word of the LORD that came to Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Author is Hosea his name means Salvation -

(Like my name Salvato) –

A) His message is one of Redemption –

B) Hosea paints a picture of how horrible sin can be but he also paints a picture of God's gracious love in Redemption

Date: Hosea ministered in the Northern Kingdom from about 760 to 720 BC.

1) MENTIONS Southern kinds as a pt of reference

KINGDOM DIVIDED AFTER SOLOMON – ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Israel was enjoying great prosperity, but Hosea

could see that the nation was rotten to the core;

A) Honest government, pure religion, godly homes, and personal integrity **had vanished from the land.**

B) When Hosea started his ministry, **Jeroboam II** was king, and it was a time of great prosperity.

C) But the nation was rotting away inwardly and getting involved with foreign alliances – **IDOLATRY**

D) **Dickens classic – A tale of two cities** – it was the best of times and the worst of times –

1) Nation was prospering economically – but the nation was crumbling spiritually

Hard to watch a nation crumble right before your very eyes

A) I think we have been witnessing that for a long time here in America.

B) In Israel – spiritually they had tried to mingle the worship of Jehovah with the worship of Idols
1) Sin of mixture – never works – Spiritual adultery.

C) Didn't matter that they were partially committed

You announced you were faithful 90% of the time – How would your wife handle that?

A) Throw you out of the house

Breakdown of the book in this Way – 4 parts – 4 weeks

1. Israel's unfaithfulness Pictured in Chapters 1-3
2. Israel's sins Proclaimed in Chapters 4-7
3. Israel's Judgment Pronounced in Chapters 8-10
4. Israel's Restoration Promised in Chapters 11-14

² When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea:

“Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry
And children of harlotry,
For the land has committed great harlotry
By departing from the LORD.”

Question – Why would God call one of his servants to do such a thing? Marry a prostitute?

Contradiction

A) **Leviticus 21:7** a priest was not allowed to marry a Prostitute or a woman who had come

out of Harlotry.

B) Didn't mean no one could – Rahab - And Hosea was not a priest

C) But why would God command it –

2 view points

#1 **Literal** – God told Hosea to go and Marry a woman who was already a prostitute.

#2 **God knew the Harlotry in Gomer's heart** – she would eventually turn to this lifestyle

You can take your pick – Prophets – Proclamation – Prediction and Demonstration

A) Hosea's life and ministry were a demonstration of the Heart of God – **Living sermon** – through his relationship with his wayward wife and his children.

B) Not uncommon – Isaiah Naked and barefoot for three years – the nakedness of the nation of Israel

C) **Ezekiel lay on his side** for a period of time depicting the number of years that Israel would be in captivity

D) **Jeremiah – bury his linen belt and after several days dig it up – Problem in the moisture it rotted and became useless –**

1) Message to Judah and Israel – sin has rendered you useless

The Living sermon that Hosea's life was depicting was that when Israel turned from God to Idols it was like a wife – who became a Harlot a prostitute.

A) **Spiritual Harlotry happens when we choose other things over God.**

B) **Sometimes it can be a relationship** – another person that we go after forsaking our commitment to God

C) **Sometimes a person's relationship with God is sacrificed for the god of mammon** – Money – Life is about making money –

1) **Work takes precedence over everything else**

D) **Sometimes it is fame** – Wanting to be someone or something – seen in a favorable way in the eyes of others – Compromise

Anytime a person sells out their relationship with God for something else it is equivalent to spiritual Harlotry.

A) **Backsliding has become so common amongst God's people that it no longer carries a stigma anymore.**

B) Doesn't shock us anymore – but it shocks heaven – Hurts God

C) **Story of a man who approached a women – sex with me for 1 million dollars? – Sure**

D) **Sex with me for \$20.00 – insulted – no what do you think I am, a whore?**

1) **That has already been established – now we are just negotiating the price.**

This is what we need to understand – there is no large and small in God's eyes!

A) **We like to say – just a little sin – not a big deal – But it is a big deal in God's eyes!**

B) **Jesus died for all Sin – NOT JUST THE BIG ONES!**

C) **NOTHING MORE HURTFUL – ADULTERY – OFFENDED –**

1) **WIFE – HARLOT – DEGRADING**

D) **God hurts for us – His hurt is not primarily toward himself but us.**

V.3 ³ So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.
⁴ Then the LORD said to him: "Call his name Jezreel, For in a little *while* I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu, And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

Jezreel = Scattered

A) **Israel would be scattered from the land –**

B) **Avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu**

1) **Jehu raised up to overthrow Ahab – over zealous – Ahab killed – threw Jezebel out of a window**

C) **Had the 70 sons of Ahab** – beheaded in the valley of Jezreel – NOT GOOD

And she conceived again and bore a daughter. Then *God* said to him:

“Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away.

LO = NO, Lo-Ruhamah = No mercy

A) Grace and Mercy – big attributes in the heart of God.

B) Justice is getting what you do deserve

1) Mercy is not getting what you do deserve –

C) Speeding tonight – Police – 50mph in 30mph zone – Justice give you a ticket

1) What is the hurry – Bible study Hosea - Warning

D) Now if he pulled you over – wrote ticket – Paid for it himself – Grace – Grace is getting what you don't deserve – **NOT GOING TO HAPPEN**

God reaches a point with Israel where He says – No more mercy!

A) Been patient in not giving you what you do deserve – done – over –

B) The Assyrians would come in and defeat Israel and take many captive.

C) Note V.7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen.”

God says – But I will have mercy on Judah – they were still seeking God. – But not without fault – **Mercy is for the guilty you see.**

A) I will save them – not by bow or sword – not of their own doing.

B) Happened in 2 Kings 19 the same army that conquered Israel set out to come against Judah –

1) Led by the Assyrian king Sennacherib – Encamped outside of city of Jerusalem

C) Hezekiah prays – God sends and Angel who wipes out 185K – Assyrians – It was a Miracle

V.8 Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. ⁹ Then *God* said: “Call

his name Lo-Ammi, For you *are* not My people, And I will not be your *God*.

A) The fact that God tells Hosea to name this kid – Not my people – suggests that this was not Hosea's son – but the result of Gomer's Harlotry

B) Another man was the father – Hosea looked at him – doesn't look anything like me – not mine!

C) Amanda Blond hair and blue eyes – the rest of us have Brown hair and brown eyes

1) Now she looks a lot like Denise's grandmother – but Aaron and Amy used to tell her she was adopted.

Hosea's family was a living sermon – Walk down the street – How can he stay with her – Everyone knew what she was doing.

A) How can God stay with his people?

B) Hosea called his kids – Scattered – No mercy – Not my people – TIME FOR DINNER

1) PREACHING A SERMON.

C) It was all a precursor, if you would, to the time when God would say – Enough is enough

But God can only take so much bad news – he has to throw in some good news

V.10 Yet – good news is coming

Ephesians 2 God describes our condition apart from Christ

You were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us

Here God says and yet

“Yet the number of the children of Israel

Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. – NOT DONE

WITH ISRAEL

And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You *are* not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You *are* sons of the living God.'

11 Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great *will be* the day of Jezreel!

2 Say to your brethren, 'My people,' And to your sisters, 'Mercy *is shown*.'

This is so awesome: God interjects a word of Hope in the midst of this:

A)He is one day going to restore HIS people TO HIMSELF

B)The scattered will be gathered – No mercy will be the recipient of Mercy

1)Not my people – renamed my people!

C)Great thing to note: God allows sin to take it's toll on us – **suffer the consequences for sin.**

1)Your sin will find you out! – Always

D)So God will allow sin to take it's toll on us but He is not going to allow sin to have the final word or failure to have the final word.

He loves us enough to go after us when we are in sin – pursue us – to even break us

A)Because he wants to and intends to restore us

B)So he speaks her of the future side of their chastening – this is not the end of the story!

C)There is a popular teaching in the church today – called Replacement theology

1)Idea is that the Church has replaced Israel as God's chosen people.

D)They key in on a phrase like this – God says – You are not my people – Cast them out

Those who teach that – make a grave mistake – I wonder if they read their Bibles.

A)They obviously ignore the 2nd part of this – God says – I will gather you again.

B)Romans 11:1 Has God forsaken Israel – CERTAINLY NOT!

C)God made a covenant with Abraham:

1)**Unconditional Covenant** – Not based on what Abraham did – based on who God was.

D)The **Carcass cut in half** – meet you in the middle – NOT MEETING YOU HALF WAY – ALL ME!

E)Promise to be my people – Promise to make you a great nation!

God intends to keep that Promise: We have seen the first part of Hosea's prophecy fulfilled in 1948 – Israel rebirthed as a nation

A)2nd part will be fulfilled in the Millennium – God's promise to Abraham

B)However God also made a Covenant with Moses – this Covenant was based on the law – Keep the law blessed – don't suffer the consequences

C)Sometimes the consequences would involve being taken from the land – **Captivity in Babylon – or in Persia**

D)But here is the thing – there was always a remnant back in Israel

1)and the purpose of the captivity was to bring them to their senses so that they would cry out to God

E)God could restore them back to the land

F)Pattern happen over and over again – that is what is pictured here in the book of Hosea.

1)Cast out for a purpose

Ch. 1 is a picture of the sin of Gomer /Israel

Ch. 2 is a description of the degraded life her sin will lead her into

God wants it to be clear that choosing a life of rebellion is not just rebellion – but you become someone even more and more degraded.

A)**Friend's sister - Barbie Buran** – once vibrant in love with Jesus

B)**Obsessed with Body image** – led to drug use – now she leaves on the streets – so sad

C)See people you don't even recognize anymore.

As we Begin Chapter 2, we see the description of the degraded life that – Gomer’s sin led to.

Ch.2 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;

Cleavage to get attention – possibly even laying her breast be seen to entice her lovers

Warning: v.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.

Doesn’t repent – Strip her dry – sin is going to suck the life right out of her

“I will not have mercy on her children, For they *are* the children of harlotry.

⁵ For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, ‘I will go after my lovers, Who give *me* my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.’

Sad to watch people backslide and the kids pay the price – the toll that sin has on a family – no one innocent.

Come to v.6 God reveals how he is going to draw her back – NOT EASY

“Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths

She will chase her lovers, But not overtake them;

Yes, she will seek them, but not find *them*.
Then she will say, ‘I will go and return to my first husband,
For then *it was* better for me than now.’

⁸ For she did not know That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil,
And multiplied her silver and gold—*Which* they prepared for Baal.

God says I will hedge your way up with thorns –

in other words I will make your way hard for you.

A) Make you unsuccessful in chasing after sin!
B) **Hebrews 11:25 Sin is pleasurable for a season**
– true – fun – results in death and destruction.

C) Devil – Kill – Rob – Destroy

D) Not going to fulfill

V.8 Hosea paints a picture of bringing supplies to take care of Gomer – bringing them to her lover – please make sure she’s taken care of

A) The Lover brings them making her think – they are from him

B) Sacrificed to Baal – thanks to false gods. – waste of money

V.9 “Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time And My new wine in its season,

And will take back My wool and My linen, Given to cover her nakedness.

10 Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers,

And no one shall deliver her from My hand.

11 I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days,

Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths—All her appointed feasts.

12 “And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees,

Of which she has said, ‘These are my wages that my lovers have given me.’

So I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field shall eat them.

13 I will punish her For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense.

She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry,

And went after her lovers; But Me she forgot,” says the Lord.

“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.

All of this chastening is going to bring her to a

place where they would remember the Lord and cry out to him!

A)The Valley of Achor becomes a door of Hope

B)Focus Sunday – Achor trouble – Achan –

C)In the valley – dried up – thirsty – cry out – RESTORATION happens v. 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,’

No longer a fear based relationship – Master –
fear based to a Love based – My Husband

- 17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals,
And they shall be remembered by their name no more.
- 18 In that day I will make a covenant for them
With the beasts of the field,
With the birds of the air, And *with* the creeping things of the ground.
Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth,
To make them lie down safely.
- 19 “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me
In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy;
- 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.
- 21 “It shall come to pass in that day *That* I will answer,” says the LORD;
“I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth.
- 22 The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine,
And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel.
- 23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on *her who had* not obtained mercy; Then I will say to *those who were* not My people,
‘You *are* My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You *are* my God!’

Those who are scattered are gathered! In the Valley of Jezreel – this will take place fullest fulfillment – in the Millennial reign of Jesus
Ch.3

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.*”

THIS IS A HARD COMMAND – learn a few things from it

A)First although in Deuteronomy 24:1 and Matthew 19:7-8 we read **Divorce is permitted** when sexual immorality is committed

B)It doesn’t mean that it is COMMANDED

C)God’s heart is always to restore.

How could Hosea love her again – Feelings gone

A)Sunday – God’s commandments are God’s enablements – we step out – He meets us

B)Don’t wait for feelings to change – You walk in obedience and God will change the heart

C)Hosea models this for us – He goes to get Gomer out of Slavery

² So I bought her for myself for fifteen *shekels* of silver, and one and one-half homers of barley. $\frac{1}{2}$ Price – Sin has taken it’s toll – beauty is gone

³ And I said to her, “You shall stay with me many days; you shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man—so, too, *will I be* toward you.” ⁴ For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. ⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and **His goodness in the latter days.**

This prophecy for the nation of Israel will see it’s ultimate fulfillment when Jesus comes 2nd coming

A)But it can be fulfilled in your life tonight

B)Tired of your sin?

C)Cry out to Jesus!

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!