

The Book of Hosea Notes
By Pastor Rob Salvato

Hosea 8-10
The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 3
(The Minor Prophets)

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

Hosea 8-10

The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 3

Tonight we come to part 3 of our study in the book of Hosea – The heart and holiness of God.

A) Prophecy where the Prophet Hosea marries a prostitute as a picture of God's relationship with Israel.

B) We have divided the book into 4 sections.

I. Israel's unfaithfulness Pictured in Chapters 1-3

II. Israel's sins Proclaimed in Chapters 4-7

C) Tonight section 3

III. Israel's Judgment Pronounced in Chapters 8-10

D) Couple of weeks we'll wrap-up with section 4

IV. Israel's Restoration Promised in Chapters 11-14

"Set the trumpet to your mouth!"

A) For the second time, Hosea calls for the trumpet to be blown (8:1; 5:8).

B) According to Numbers 10, the Jews used trumpets to announce special occasions, to sound alarms,

1) to gather the people for war.

C) This call was a trumpet of alarm because the enemy was coming {**Judgment from God**

Hosea is an illustrator – he likes to paint pictures in his prophecies

A) And here in Ch.8 He is going to give Israel 5 pictures to show the people what God would do to them because of their sin.

The First is an Eagle:

He shall come like an eagle against the house of the LORD, "The house of the Lord" refers to the nation of Israel, for the people were God's dwelling-place.

A) The Assyrian eagle was about to swoop down and destroy God's house **Because they have transgressed My covenant - And rebelled against My law.**

B) God had established a covenant with the nation Israel.

1) The covenant was the basis whereby God would be their God and would bless them.

C) Problem was they transgressed the covenant and failed to Keep God's law

D) Paul – problem wasn't with the law the problem was with Man's ability to keep it

Now as believers in the NT we live in what the Bible describes as a new covenant with Christ!

A) In Hebrews we are told that it is a better covenant.

B) Better because it is not based on My performance – but on His – not my faithfulness but on God's.

Bb) **Old Covenant said:** Do this – and you will live

1) Do this – follow these commands and you will have life.

C) **The new covenant says Live:** Put your faith in Jesus – come to life – be born again spiritually – God's spirit living in your heart

D) **Live and you will find yourself doing these things!**

E) **The sole basis of our relationship with God In the NC is determined to the degree of which we rely upon and enjoy the finished work of Christ.**

Israel was living in the Old Covenant – they broke it time and time again – went after other lovers.

A) They are like a wife – trying to stay married and keep lovers on the side.

² **Israel will cry to Me, 'My God, we know You!'** (Come on we know you - it is us - don't be so heavy)

³ Israel has rejected the good; The enemy will pursue him.

⁴ "They **set up kings**, but not by Me; They made princes, but did not acknowledge *them*. From their silver and gold They made idols for themselves— That they might be cut off.

⁵ Your **calf is rejected, O Samaria!** My anger is aroused against them— How long until they attain to innocence?

⁶ For from Israel *is* even this: A workman made it, and it *is* not God; But the **calf of Samaria** shall be broken to pieces.

They made kings and removed kings to satisfy their own desires,

A) They manufactured gods (especially the golden calves at Bethel and Dan) that could not help them.

B) Their calf would be broken into pieces.

C) So the first picture is that of a swift Eagle coming in for its prey.

2nd Pic - *Sowing and reaping (Hosea 8:7).*

“They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind.

The concept of sowing and reaping as it relates to conduct is often used in Scripture

He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow - Prov 22:8

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” – Galatians 6:7-8

In their idolatry and political alliances, the Israelites were trying to sow seeds they hoped would produce a good harvest,

A) But God says they were only sowing the wind—vanity, nothing—

B) Result – they would reap the whirlwind.

1) Nothing could stop the force of the Assyrian army.

C) The sowing/reaping image continues with the picture of a blighted crop of grain.

The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it should produce, Aliens would swallow it up.

The rulers of Israel thought their worship of Baal and their foreign alliances would produce a good crop of peace and prosperity;

A) But when the time came for the harvest, there was nothing to reap. {It was all for not!

B) In the image of the whirlwind, Hosea was saying **“You will reap far more than you sowed, and it will be destructive!”**

C) In the image of the grain, he was saying **“You will reap nothing at all, and your enemies will get the benefit of all the promises you made.”**

D) **The Point: A life lived after the flesh will bring a person to emptiness.**

1) Pursuing your own fleshly ambitions **will not** bring you satisfaction but only a deeper hunger that cannot be fulfilled.

E) Life becomes empty like chaff.

3rd Worthless pottery (Hosea 8:8). Israel is swallowed

up; Now they are among the Gentiles Like a vessel in which *is* no pleasure.

Their compromise had so cheapened them that Israel was of no value to the community of nations.

A) She was a useless vessel “in which no one delights”

B) Nobody feared them, nobody courted them, nobody wanted them.

C) We all have vessels in our garage – Useless –

1) Recently redid my front lawn – replaced sprinkler heads – bucket of some broken pieces

Someone who knows what they are doing can take broken pieces and put them together to create something that works.

A) God puts a premium on broken things!

B) In 2 Corinthians 4 – Paul said: We are these earthen vessels – clay pots – God has put the treasure of his son into.

C) God’s spirit in our hearts – sometimes who he is in us becomes the most apparent when we become broken.

1) A broken and contrite heart he will not turn away from.

D) God puts a premium on broken things – His glory shines the brightest!

E) In the eyes of others, Israel had become a useless vessel. – But God still had plans for them

4th A stupid donkey (Hosea 8:9a)

For they have gone up to Assyria, Like a wild donkey alone by itself;

A) Israel wanted to be a part of the alliances that were forming to fight Assyria, but she was actually very much alone.

B) She was like a dumb animal that had lost its way in the wilderness.

1) Israel had forsaken her God, and she had been forsaken by her allies, so she was abandoned to face a terrible future alone.

5th A prostitute (Hosea 8:9b–10).

Ephraim has hired lovers.¹⁰ Yes, though they have hired among the nations, Now I will gather them; And they shall sorrow a little, Because of the burden of the king of princes. Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, They have become for him altars for sinning.

In negotiating with the Gentile nations for protection, Ephraim (Israel) acted like a common prostitute selling herself for money.

A) Israel's kings paid tribute to the king of Assyria and also sent gifts to Egypt (12:1).

B) Instead of being faithful to her Husband, Jehovah God,

1) Israel prostituted herself to the Gentile nations—and lost everything.

¹² I have written for him the great things of My law, But they were considered a strange thing.

A) This is how far the nation had sunk – the law of God which at one time was precious and guided them.

B) Now it had become peculiar – and foreign to the point of being strange.

C) Is that not a good description of our country!

1) We used to hold the truths of God's word as precious

D) Now to the majority – it is strange and foreign.

¹³ For the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat it, But the LORD does not accept them.

Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt.

¹⁴ "For Israel has forgotten his Maker, And has built temples;

Judah also has multiplied fortified cities;
But I will send fire upon his cities,
And it shall devour his palaces."

Hosea mentions Egypt 13 times in his book, and these references fall into three distinct categories: Past—their Deliverance from Egypt (2:15; 11:1; 12:9, 13; 13:4);

Present—Israel's unholy alliances with Egypt (7:11, 16; 12:1);

Future—Egypt as a symbol of their impending bondage to Assyria (8:13; 9:3, 6; 11:5, 11).

Three times in this section, the prophet announces, "They shall go to Egypt" (8:13; 9:3, 6); but Ch. 11:5 makes it clear that "Egypt" is a symbol for Assyrian bondage:

Ch.9

The Picture of the Prostitute and the bondage it resulted in is continued into chapter 9

Do not rejoice, O Israel, with joy like other peoples, For you have played the harlot against your God.

You have made love for hire on every threshing floor.

² The threshing floor and the winepress Shall not feed them, And the new wine shall fail in her.

Instead of trusting the Lord to protect her from Assyria,

A) Israel fortified her towns and sought help from foreign nations, and from a spiritual point of view, this was like prostitution.

B) During the harvest season, prostitutes frequented the threshing floors where the men slept to guard the grain.

C) So it became a place of great sin and immorality instead of a place of rejoicing in God's provision.

³ They shall not dwell in the LORD's land, But Ephraim shall return to Egypt, And shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

⁴ They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, Nor shall their sacrifices be pleasing to Him. It shall be like bread of mourners to them; All who eat it shall be defiled.

For their bread *shall be* for their *own* life;
It shall not come into the house of the LORD.

⁵ What will you do in the appointed day,
And in the day of the feast of the LORD?

Israel did not honor the Lord in their appointed feast days, so the Lord will take them away.

In their lands of exile, they will not be able to honor the feasts of the Lord

Sometimes you don't know how much you miss something until it is taken away!

For indeed they are gone because of destruction.
Egypt shall gather them up;
Memphis shall bury them.
Nettles shall possess their valuables of silver;
Thorns *shall be* in their tents.

The result of sin and rebellion is the people get out of the land of God and scattered

⁷ The days of punishment have come; The days of recompense have come. Israel knows!
The prophet *is* a fool, The spiritual man *is* insane,
Because of the greatness of your iniquity and great enmity.

This is what the people of Israel said about Hosea.

A)When things prospered and everyone was happy,

➤ **Hosea announced coming judgment and called for repentance.**

B)They thought he was a fool and crazy.

C)They said in effect, “Who in his right mind would prophesy a judgment like this when we are in the midst of such a bountiful harvest, in itself a proof of God’s blessing?”

⁸ The watchman of Ephraim *is* with my God; But the prophet *is* a fowler’s snare in all his ways—
Enmity in the house of his God.

⁹ They are deeply corrupted, As in the days of Gibeah.
He will remember their iniquity; He will punish their sins.

Twice in this passage, Hosea mentions “the days of Gibeah” Here in Hosea 9:9; & 10:9).

A)The reference is to the awful sins of the men of Gibeah and the tragic civil war that followed (Judges19–21).

B)The men of Gibeah practiced unnatural lust and killed an innocent woman in a gang rape episode.

1)The city would not punish the offenders, so the whole nation attacked Benjamin and almost destroyed the tribe.

C)In Hosea’s day, all the ten tribes of Israel were practicing these abominable things,

1)but God would judge them and they would reap what they had sown.

V.10 “I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness;

I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season.

A)Grapes in the wilderness and the firstfruits on the fig tree are unexpected blessings.

B)There was a time when Israel was something special to God

1)God fondly remembers the days when Israel was faithful and fruitful unto Him.

C)But that all changed

10b But they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves to that shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

In the book of Numbers– Balak the King of Moab hired Balak the prophet to curse the people of Israel.

A)Problem was every time that Balaam tried to curse the people of God a blessing came out of his mouth.

B)Balaam finally said: I can’t curse them – but I know a way that you can get them to curse themselves.

C)Get some of the prettiest young girls you have and at night have them sneak down into the tents of the men of Israel

Have them offer themselves sexually to these men.

A)But have them bring little idols of Baal with them and tell the men they'll only sleep with them if they worship their idols

B)Many of the men of Israel gave into this temptation

1)Brought a curse and plague upon them.

This happened at Baal Peor

¹¹ *As for Ephraim, their glory shall fly away like a bird— No birth, no pregnancy, and no conception!*

¹² *Though they bring up their children, Yet I will bereave them to the last man.*

Yes, woe to them when I depart from them! ¹³

*Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre,
planted in a pleasant place,
So Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer.”*

In contrast to their past fruitfulness, now Israel will experience barrenness and bereavement

A)Mourning over the affects that sin will have upon their children!

B)One of the saddest things for me as a Pastor over the years is to watch families – backslide.

1)God takes a back seat – other priorities –

C)The kids end of rebelling – there is some tragedy

1)Drug addiction – a death –

D)YOU see the despair on the faces of these parents as they realize – this might have been prevented

1)What happened to their child was a result of their choice to – No longer follow God with full heart

E)It is one of the saddest things to watch happen.

1)Some parents never get over that.

*Give them, O LORD— What will You give?
{Suggestion*

Give them a miscarrying womb - And dry breasts!

A)Hosea prayed for mercy.

B)Knowing the coming judgment, he prayed “Lord, give them few children so those children will not have to face the horrors of Your coming judgment.”

C)As hard as a miscarriage is – it would be worse for them to watch their children suffer in captivity – knowing it was the result of their (the parents) sin

¹⁵ *“All their wickedness is in Gilgal, For there I hated them.*

Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more. All their princes are rebellious.

At one time, Gilgal was a place where prophets were trained under Elijah and Elisha (2 Kings 2:1; 4:38).

A)But in Hosea’s day it had become a center of false worship

B)It would be like going out to the Bible college and retreat center – (Awesome things have gone on)

C)Finding it as a place where – Parties – orgies – and Satan worship was happening!

God says *Because of the evil of their deeds I will drive them from My house; I will love them no more.*

A)In this sense, exile was the perfect punishment for Israel.

B)They had disgraced God’s house, His land, so He would “evict” them.

¹⁶ *Ephraim is stricken, Their root is dried up; They shall bear no fruit. Yes, were they to bear children, I would kill the darlings of their womb.”*

¹⁷ *My God will cast them away, Because they did not obey Him; And they shall be wanderers among the nations.*

One of the major reasons Israel went after idols like Baal and Ashtoreth was because those gods were thought to bring fertility and fruitfulness.

A) God reminds Israel that He is really the Lord over the womb, and that He will turn their fruitfulness into barrenness.

B) And that prophecy has been fulfilled and is being fulfilled at the present time,

1) for they still remain wanderers among the nations.

Ch.10

Israel empties *his* vine; He brings forth fruit for himself.

According to the multitude of his fruit

He has increased the altars; According to the bounty of his land They have embellished his sacred pillars.

God blessed Israel with material abundance, but they spent it on themselves and their own idolatrous desires

A) They increased the altars - more idolatry is the idea).

B) Israel enjoyed the blessing of God, but used those blessings in ungodly ways.

C) Paul warns against the same sin in Galatians 5:13: *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh.*

Sometimes in our celebration of the liberty we have in Christ and the joy of the grace of God.

A) We can get lazy as believers –

B) I don't have to read my bible – I don't have to go to church.

1) Average American Christian only goes to church 2 weekends a month.

C) Instead of feeding our spirits and being spiritually disciplined in Bible study – we indulge our flesh

1) Listen: reap what you sow to.

D) Part of Israel's Problem – they were indulging their flesh and reaping Destruction.

²Their heart is divided;

A) The word **divided** is *halaq*, which has the ideas of “divided” (Genesis 14:15, 49:7), Genesis 14:15, 49:7

B) But it also carries the idea of being flattering and insincere in (Genesis 27:11, Psalm 55:21) (Psalm 5:9, 36:2).

C) The idea of Israel's “insincere” heart is reflected by the adulteries of Hosea's wife Gomer earlier in the book.

They are like a wife who says to her husband – I love you all the while she is keeping lovers on the side.

A) Their words are a lie -

B) Israel had this divided, insincere heart and expressed it on the altars of idolatry.

Now they are held guilty. He will break down their altars; He will ruin their sacred pillars.

³ For now they say, “We have no king, (Like taking off the wedding ring - Not married)

Because we did not fear the LORD. And as for a king, what would he do for us?”

⁴ They have spoken words, Swearing falsely in making a covenant. (False vows)

Thus judgment springs up like hemlock in the furrows of the field.

⁵ The inhabitants of Samaria fear Because of the calf of Beth Aven.

For its people mourn for it, And its priests shriek for it— Because its glory has departed from it.

⁶ *The idol* also shall be carried to Assyria As a present for King Jareb. Ephraim shall receive shame, And Israel shall be ashamed of his own counsel.

⁷ *As for* Samaria, her king is cut off Like a twig on the water.

⁸ Also the high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, Shall be destroyed.

The thorn and thistle shall grow on their altars; They shall say to the mountains, “Cover us!” And to the hills, “Fall on us!”

The judgment of God is going to come, the place where they worshipped their pagan gods will be covered with weeds, nettles,

A) And the people for fear of the invasion of the Assyrians will cry to the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and to hide them.

B) The Assyrians were historically a very fierce, cruel people.

1)The Assyrians had habits of pulling out the tongues of their captives, gouging out their eyes, brutally maiming

C) According to the accounts in history, they were so cruel to their captives

1) that many times the city that was surrounded by the Assyrian army, { Cities would commit mass suicide

D)Rather than going in captivity to these cruel Assyrians,

1) which is what is meant by the cry to the mountains to cover us and to the hills fall on us.

9 “O Israel, you have sinned from the days of Gibeah;
There they stood. The battle in Gibeah against the children of iniquity Did not overtake them.
10 When *it is* My desire, I will chasten them.
Peoples shall be gathered against them
When I bind them for their two transgressions.
11 Ephraim *is* a trained heifer That loves to thresh *grain*;
But I harnessed her fair neck, I will make Ephraim pull *a plow*. Judah shall plow;
Jacob shall break his clods.”

(Bondage is in their future – Samson –
Blinded bound – grinding

Sin blinds – binds – leaves you grinding

Now in the midst of this pronouncement of Judgment – God offers a ray of hope – a call to repentance

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness;
Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground,
For *it is* time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy:

A)Israel had sown the seed of sin, and they would soon reap judgment from God.

B)But Even now, if they would sow **righteousness**, they would **reap in mercy** at the next harvest.

C)We are all sowing! - Every man’s life is sowing.

1)The Lord, declares, here **"Sow to yourselves."**

Not only do I sow, but I am also sowing unto

myself.

A)Our minds are like computers,

B)they’re being programmed daily by the things that I’m putting into them,

1)and as a computer, what is put in is what will come out.

C)What “crop” will grow up from the seeds planted today, or this past week, or this past month?

D)God’s word is likened to seed – We are to be planting God’s word in the soil of our hearts

Now God builds on the picture of sowing and reaping by telling Israel to break up your fallow ground

A)Fallow ground has two primary characteristics.

B)First, it is *unproductive*. It yields no harvest. Second, it is *unattended*

C)It is currently being ignored or has been forgotten.

1) It is not fulfilling its purpose.

I Live in Oceanside – Ground is hard – clay – recently redid my lawn – had to rototiller

A)Sometimes in order for God’s word to pierce our hearts we need to take a rototiller to our hearts

B)Break up the fallow ground. How do we do that?

Inspection: Search me oh God and know my heart

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

24 **And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting**

Psalm 139:23,24

A)You come before the Lord honestly and say – God here – search my heart –

B)Walk the soil – of my heart – please point out to me anything you see that is not right

C)Is there an issue – unattended to. – Bitterness, unforgiveness or compromise

Lord is there an area of my heart that has become cluttered – weeds growing – Distracted?

A)We have more time-saving devices than any generation in history, and yet less time than ever.

B)So distracted by so many things

1)Lord am I overly distracted?

C)Lord is there an area – Lazy –

1)Let my guard down

D)Area of compromise.

Problem is not many of us are willing to be that vulnerable with God.

A)If we are the next step is when he reveals – we need to follow the inspections with
CONFESSION

“If we confess our sin God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

B)To confess = to say the same as – to see it the way that God does.

C)Instead of rationalizing why I have a right to feel that way or do that thing.

1)Instead of arguing with God about it – I admit – Wrong needs to go

Psalm 51:10-13

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Inspection – confession

Repentance: New direction

A)Where there was anger – be kind

B)Where there was laziness – fresh zeal

C)Compromise – turn away – put that thing to death

That is how you break up the fallow ground

A)When you do – The seed of God’s word takes root and begins to grow again.

B)So God calls on Israel to break up the fallow ground of their hearts

1)Sow in righteousness – so they could reap in mercy

C)God is ready to forgive and restore but they would not come.

1)God gives them an option and a way out – but they would not take it!

13 You have plowed wickedness; You have reaped iniquity.

You have eaten the fruit of lies, Because you trusted in your own way, In the multitude of your mighty men.

14 Therefore tumult shall arise among your people, And all your fortresses shall be plundered As Shalman plundered Beth Arbel in the day of battle—

A mother dashed in pieces upon *her* children.

15 Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, Because of your great wickedness.

At dawn the king of Israel Shall be cut off utterly.

So because Israel is given over to sin and Idolatry

Reap the consequences

A)But it could have been different

B)What about us - What are you sowing to tonight

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!