

The Book of Hosea Notes
By Pastor Rob Salvato

Hosea 11-14
The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 4
(The Minor Prophets)

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

Hosea 11-14

The Heart and Holiness of God, Part 4

We are in our 4th and final week of our study in the book of Hosea –

A) The Heart and Holiness of God! Part 4

B) Not been here: end of the movie – **best part**

1) Hosea was a Prophet who God asked to marry a prostitute – picture of His relationship w/ Israel

C) Broke up the book in this way:

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

As we come to Ch. 11 this final section – God changes the picture of his relationship with Israel from a Husband to that of a Father. 3 sections

#1 A Heart Broken Father 11-13:3

#2 A Proactive Father 13:4-14:3

#3 A Promising Father 14:4-14:9

Those of you who like to note things like this –

God speaking 11:1-12:1 - Personal pronoun I/me

...

Hosea is speaking 12:2-12:8

God is speaking 12:9-11

Hosea is speaking 12:12-13:3

God is speaking 13:4-13:14

Hosea speaking 13:15 – 14:3

God speaking 14:4-9

1st A Heart Broken Father 11-13:3

God is speaking

Remembering a blissful past –

“When Israel was a child, **I loved him**, {Speaking of the tender love of a father!

And out of Egypt I called My son. {Speaking of their deliverance out of Slavery and bondage in Egypt –

which is a picture of Salvation.

Problem was **when** they went into the land of Canaan the people of Canaan – came calling

As they called them, So they went from them;

They sacrificed to the Baals,

And burned incense to carved images.

Once they came into Canaan – didn't' remove all the people of Canaan like God requested.

A) Come out from among them and be separate – remove the cancer – or it will spread.

B) As every tribe settled – they didn't' drive out the Canaanites.

1) You let bad influences linger and they are only going to grow.

C) NEWS FLASH – your flesh is attracted to the things of the world –

1) Your flesh is attracted to carnality.

D) We think – we can play with sin – not a big deal
Compromise always has ramifications – grows

A) So because they allowed the Canaanites to dwell among them – they started introducing them to their gods –

B) The Father continues to remember

3 “I taught Ephraim to walk, Taking them by their arms; But they did not know that I healed them.

{Remember that dads? – standing behind your kids- helping them learn to walk – patient tender – exciting –

4 I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love, And I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck. I stooped and fed them.

God is describing how tenderly he cared for Israel

A) But the problem was – **they rejected Him** – like a prodigal child who runs from his/her parents to pursue their own ways –

B) I am going to do it my way! Don't care what you think

C) But Prodigal living always results in pain

1) Especially for the believer – God loves you – not going to let you get away with sin!

D) My kids – do something wrong – Denise would somehow always discover it

1) God loves you that is why- Sin finds you out!

God continues to speak about Israel

5 “He shall not return to the land of Egypt;

But the Assyrian shall be his king, {new master

Because they refused to repent.

6 And the sword shall slash in his cities,

Devour his districts, And consume them,
Because of their own counsels.

Result of rebellion leads to bondage and destruction – because they did their own thing –

A) They Did what was right in their own eyes – listened to their own counsel

B) That is always the way it is – I can't tell you how many of times – knee deep in junk –
1) trying to help someone clean up the mess sin has made in their lives

C) Someone that I had previously counseled or warned who didn't listen –
1) They thought they knew better – listened to their own counsel -

D) Everything blows up – MESS – I am trying to help them pick up the pieces

1) They turn and say with tears – I should have listened to you.

7 My people are bent on backsliding from Me.
Though they **call** to the Most High,
None at all exalt Him.

The Heart broken father – they call me the most high but none of them honors me –

A) "Honor me with their lips but their heart is far from me."

B) We sing songs – we sing – Lord reign in me
1) We call Jesus Lord – BUT IS HE REALLY?

C) God is heartbroken - But then we see the struggle in the heart of God!

8 "How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I set you like Zeboiim?"

Admah and **Zeboiim** were two cities near Sodom and Gomorrah that were also destroyed (Deuteronomy 29:23).

God is saying, "I can't bear to allow My people to be caught up in the destruction that will come upon all the nations, as **Admah** and **Zeboiim** were caught up on the destruction that came upon Sodom and Gomorrah."

D) **The inner turmoil – Justice & mercy**
My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred.
9 I **will not execute** the fierceness of My anger
I will not again destroy Ephraim.
For I am **God, and not man**, The Holy One in your midst;
And I **will not come** with terror.

Often times God puts language in the Bible in a way that sounds human – so we can understand it.
A) Here he is giving us insight – God is 100% loving – and 100% Holy!

B) We sometimes think – mutually exclusive

1) The two don't go together

C) We equate holiness with being mean – Rigid
1) Harsh tones – Preachers portray God like that

D) We equate loving as Kind and forgiving – Big Teddy bear –

We think it has to be one or the other – because that is how we tend to be.

A) Ever been fired? – Fired once – Here

B) At CCCM – 20 yrs old Brian asked me to come down on the weekends – teach the kids – gas money.

C) Did that for 4-5 months – One day – Not working out we don't want you to come any more.
1) Ok – They were nice but I definitely felt rejected

I probably didn't hear from Brian or Gaylord for like a year –

A) Out of the blue – lunch – Hire me

B) I didn't think you even liked me

C) Break ups – but still be friends – we have a hard time with that - Awkward –

But with God it is never awkward -

A) In His Holiness – He cannot wink at sin – can't overlook it

B) He has to deal with it – or He is not Holy – Not God

C) But in His love – He wants to forgive – He wants to show grace and mercy.

We see it as this incredible dilemma – has to be one way or the other.

A) God sees them flowing together – because He is forever – concerned – HIS NAME

B) OUR WELLING BEING

C) SO out of love He disciplines –

1) Out of love he chastises – move us in the right direction

D) Our problem is we often don't see it like that – because in our mind – ONE OR THE OTHER!

E) So Here we see God using human language to illustrate the struggle

1) **CONFLICT between justice and mercy**

Answer now is in the Cross – already paid for!

The Roar of God calls Israel Back

10 “They shall walk after the Lord. He will roar like a lion. When He roars, Then His sons shall come trembling from the west;

A) My dad was never a yeller – A LOOK – START CRYING

B) One time my mom did something that really got my attention.

1) 17 curfew – 11pm – Dad went to sleep early

C) Habit of coming home past curfew – sneaking in

1) Dad went to sleep early..... not worried

Well one night came home hour past my curfew

A) My mom met me at the door – push – in FACE
I can't go to sleep until you get home.

B) I understood that when my kids were driving especially my girls –

1) I used that same line

C) Wish we had the dog back – then – growls – dead sleep – barking

1) Never would have come home late again

D) God says – Not Bark like a dog – ROAR like Lion

11 They shall come trembling like a bird from Egypt, Like a dove from the land of Assyria. And I will let them dwell in their houses,” Says the Lord.

This is what he is going to do to get their attention – and bring them back –

A) God will often allow us to be broken that he might build us up again.

B) V. 10 again -10 “They shall walk after the Lord. The beauty of the New Covenant –

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. – Ezekiel 36:26-28

C) I will place my Spirit in them and cause them....

God's Charge Against Ephraim

12 “Ephraim has encircled Me with lies, And the house of Israel with deceit; {Given over to lies and deception – They say one thing and do another. But Judah still walks with God, Even with the Holy One who is faithful.

Ch.12

12 “Ephraim feeds on the wind, And pursues the east wind; He daily increases lies and desolation.

Also they make a covenant with the Assyrians, And oil is carried to Egypt.

They feed on the wind – end up with nothing!

A) Sin is like cotton candy – looks good – big colorful – no substance

So in this opening chapter we see the heart of God as a heart broken father.

A) Ch.12v2 Hosea starts to speak and the tone changes a little.

B) Not quite as fatherly – more the tone of a frustrated prophet.

C) He is going to describe Israel's troubled beginning

2 “The Lord also brings a charge against Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; According to his deeds He will recompense him.

3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb,

And in his strength he struggled with God.
4 Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed;
He wept, and sought favor from Him.
He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us—
5 That is, the Lord God of hosts. The Lord is His memorable name. 6 So you, by the help of your God, return; Observe mercy and justice, And wait on your God continually.

Israel had a history of struggling with God – starting with Jacob –

A)Who also tried to run his own life and do his own thing he came out of the womb trying to pull his brother back –

B)His whole life was one of wrestling with God for his own way

1)Jacob was a fighter; he was tough.

C)He also was very resourceful.

1)A man who is intuitively resourceful many times has great difficulty in really submitting to God.

D)A man who is the master of every situation and can connive and figure his way out of problems so often fails to really submit himself totally to God.

That was Jacob

A)All came to a head at Jabbok – he ended up literally wrestling with God – BROKEN HIP

B)ISRAEL WAS BORN! – A man governed by God

7“**A cunning Canaanite!**- {Merchant
Deceitful scales are in his hand; He loves to oppress.
8 And Ephraim said, ‘Surely I have become rich, I have found wealth for myself; In all my labors They shall find in me no iniquity that is sin.’

C)Here is the problem with being resourceful – easy to think – God is prospering me

1)It is a sure proof that he is not displeased with me, that “no iniquity can be found in me”

2)Easy to think as long as God is withholding His punishment, that their ways cannot be so displeasing to Him.

God is speaking again

9“But I am the Lord your God, Ever since the land of Egypt; I will **again** make you dwell in tents, As in the days of the appointed feast 10 I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions;

I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.”

11 Though Gilead has idols— Surely they are vanity— Though they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal, Indeed their altars shall be heaps in the furrows of the field.

God is saying – I am going to take you back to basics – back to tents – strip it down –

A)Back to a time when they are the most dependent on Him.

B)Back to a time when the focus was on him

1)Song – The Heart of Worship - Real Church – got caught up in the production –

C)We are going to strip it down – FOCUS ON JESUS

D)GOD SAYS - I am going to tear down their altars and idols – all that is left is me!

Hosea is speaking again

12 Jacob fled to the country of Syria; Israel served for a spouse, and for a wife he tended sheep.

A)Jacob served seven years for Leah; having been cheated by Laban, who gave him first Leah,

B)Seven more for Rachel – the cunning one – conned

13 By a prophet (**Moses**) the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, And by a prophet he was preserved.

14 Ephraim provoked Him (GOD) to anger most bitterly; Therefore his Lord will leave the guilt of his bloodshed upon him, And return his reproach upon him. Relentless Judgment on Israel

C)The LORD used a prophet MOSES to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him.

D)But Ephraim has bitterly provoked him to anger; his LORD will leave upon him the guilt of his bloodshed and will repay him for his contempt” -

Ch.13

13 When Ephraim spoke, trembling, {**Humility**}He exalted himself in Israel;

But when he offended through Baal **worship, he died.**

This means that the national character deteriorates.

A) We see this in the lowering moral climate of our day

B) Corruption in Government – breakup of families – the increase in crime

1) Legalization of drugs – Sex trafficking

C) The moral fiber of our nation is dying!

2 Now they sin more and more. {Sin always leads to more sin

A) Sin draws on sin.

B) Flirtatious leads to a touch, a long embrace, - a kiss – full on adultery.

C) Sin is always progressive

Beer leads to harder alcohol – more relaxed – a deeper buzz - abuse of alcohol

A) That is what sin does to people

B) The flesh is Never satisfied with casual compromise

2 Now they sin more and more And have made for themselves molded images, Idols of their silver, according to their skill; All of it is the work of craftsmen. They say of them, “Let the men who sacrifice kiss the calves!”- Pay homage is the idea

This started as another way to Worship God – more convenient –

A) King Jeroboam said – You don’t need to go to Jerusalem – worship at the calf – Represent God

B) Not only was that wrong – but it led to further idolatry and perversion.

3 Therefore they shall be like the morning cloud
And like the early dew that passes away,
Like chaff blown off from a threshing floor
And like smoke from a chimney. {The very fiber of their being was going to wither away.

God is speaking again

A PROACTIVE FATHER

4 “Yet I am the Lord your God Ever since the land of Egypt, And you shall know no God but Me;
For there is no savior besides Me. {Not giving up on YOU!

5 I knew you in the wilderness,
In the land of great drought.

6 When they had pasture, they were filled;
They were filled and their heart was exalted;
Therefore they forgot Me. {God blessed his people but in their pride they started thinking that their prosperity was of their own doing.

7 “So I will be to them like a lion;

Like a leopard by the road I will lurk;

8 I will meet them like a bear deprived of her cubs;
I will tear open their rib cage, And there I will devour them like a lion. The wild beast shall tear them.

The fierceness of the lion, and the swiftness of the leopard, together portray a speedy unstoppable chastisement.- GET THEIR ATTENTION-

A) Another time my dad – got my attention

B) Age 14-15 Spanking – Yes – that age – last one

1) Lots of spankings – Spare the rod spoil child not a warning – command –

C) This one day – Out into the garage –

1) Took off his belt – (never the belt – always the hand – never doubted his love)

D) Belt – handed it to me – said – You hit me I want you to see what it feels like – spank Love

E) That was the last time he had to call me into the garage!

1) He got my attention

God gets proactive – Action is quick and severe to get our attention.

A) Sometimes it has to be that way: people in their stubbornness don’t listen

B) That was definitely the case with Israel – they were stubborn

9 “O Israel, you are destroyed, {You have destroyed yourself - But your help is from Me.

10 I will be your King; Where is any other,
That he may save you in all your cities? {I wanted to be your King – but you rejected me

And your judges to whom you said,
‘Give me a king and princes’?

11 I gave you a king in My anger
And took **him away** in My wrath.

God said to Samuel – not rejecting you – rejecting me

12 “The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up;
His sin is stored up.

13 The sorrows of a woman in childbirth shall come upon him. He is an unwise son,
For he should not stay long where children are born.
14 “I will ransom them from the power of the grave;
I will redeem them from death.
O Death, I will be your plagues!
O Grave, I will be your destruction!
Pity is hidden from My eyes.

When they look like they are dead and gone – I will rescue them from death -

Hosea begins to speak again- Continues Describing God as proactive

15 Though he is fruitful among his brethren,
An east wind shall come;
The wind of the Lord shall come up from the wilderness.
Then his spring shall become dry,
And his fountain shall be dried up.
He shall plunder the treasury of every desirable prize.
{This can actually happen in Israel – fierce winds that rip through the countryside – flowers in bloom – blown and everything is left barren.

That is what sin does – dries you up – strips you of your spiritual VIBRANCY!

16 Samaria is held guilty,
For she has rebelled against her God.
They shall fall by the sword,
Their infants shall be dashed in pieces,
And their women with child ripped open.
Israel Restored at Last

Ch.14 AT THIS POINT Hosea pleads with the people

1 O Israel, return to the Lord your God,
For you have stumbled because of your iniquity;
2 Take words with you, And return to the Lord.
Say to Him, **{Tell God this -**
“Take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously,
For we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.
3 Assyria shall not save us, We will not ride on horses, Nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, ‘You are our gods.’ For in You the fatherless finds mercy.” {Full repentance – change – turning from our gods

A REMEDY FOR REPENTANCE

#1 Accept Personal Responsibility For Sin 14:1
Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

Here is the first step in returning to God: accepting personal responsibility for departing from him.

#2 Make An Honest Confession 14:2

The second step home to God, in verse 2, is to make an honest confession of our sin to him, to verbally agree with him:

#3 Renounce Every False God

The third crucial step back to the Lord is turning away from the old ways of living that led us away from him.

God is speaking again HIS RESPONSE

4 “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely,
For My anger has turned away from him.
5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily,
And lengthen his roots like Lebanon.
6 His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree,
And his fragrance like Lebanon.
7 Those who dwell under his shadow shall return;
They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine.
Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
8 “Ephraim shall say, ‘What have I to do anymore with idols?’ I have heard and observed him.
I am like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me.”

Repentance brings Restoration and Refreshment

9 Who is wise? **{Final admonition**
Let him understand these things.
Who is prudent? Let him know them.
For the ways of the Lord are right;
The righteous walk in them,
But transgressors stumble in them

Who is wise and understanding of these things?

#1 The ways of the Lord are right

God’s ways are right – drawing the backslider

#2 The Righteous walk in them

Can’t imagine anything else

#3 Transgressors fall in them

The way of the transgressor is hard because God loves the transgressor – makes it hard –
Backsliding is hard on you -
Pray – get out of the pig pen

Wise – learn from others mistakes -

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!