



Hurt and Healing

Hosea 2

1. Read Hosea 1:2-3. What did God command Hosea to do and why?

2. Why do Christians end up confused and troubled when they don't understand that God's love has a "hard" side to it, that His relentless love at times – hurts?

a. Fill in the blanks. Spiritual Principle – When God's love _____, it's _____ for my _____.

3. Read Hosea 2:2-7. Consider verse 6 in particular. How does God use pain to benefit us?

a. Read Colossians 3:5. How can I have a false god (or an idol, idolatry) without bowing down to a physical statute or being engaged in a false religion?

b. Why is it critical to grasp that false gods form in my – heart?

c. Why does God refer to our false gods as our "lovers?"

d. What are common "idols" among Christians?

e. What finally makes Israel "return" to her "first husband" here?

4. Lately – what things (or people) do you feel you MUST have or CANNOT lose?

a. Why does this reveal that these are idols in your heart that need to be repented of?

5. Read Hosea 2:8. How do we engage in this same type of sin?

a. How will reflecting on this help you live a godlier life?

6. Read Hosea 2:9-13. Consider verse 13 in particular. How did Israel “forget” God?

a. How do I do the same?

b. Why does God have every right to be offended by my ongoing sin?

7. Read Hosea 2:14-23. What do we learn about what God’s love for us is like here? Elaborate.

a. Why do you need to reflect on this more?

b. In what ways is God like the most loving husband imaginable to us?

8. How have you benefitted from God’s painful love in your life? Give an example.

a. How does reflecting on being a spiritual “whore” to God (your tender, faithful husband) make you desire to reject all sin and love God more?

9. What key take away from this study will you make a point to remember? Why?
