

ANATOMY OF SIN

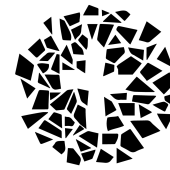
HOSEA 3

Community Group Study Guide
Week of April 7, 2019

This week, we we looked at one of the most common descriptions of sin in Scripture, which is "Sin as Adultery." We see this very clearly in the book of Hosea which is one of the most heart-wrenching and graphic books in all of Scripture. God's people have turned to sin and false gods and rejected the true God who delivered them and made them His people. The overarching theme of Hosea is that God is going to bring fiery judgment against his people for their sin, but when they are humbled and repent, He will respond with tenderness and mercy. The big idea is that God is a loving and jealous God, and His unfailing love will not allow his people to live as willing slaves to folly, sin, or idolatry.

Against this backdrop, God uses the life of the prophet Hosea to vividly illustrate what is really going on between God and His people. God is not merely a Good Judge who must uphold justice before the Law. He is a personal God who relates to his people as a shepherd to His sheep, as a Father to His children, and even as a Husband to His wife. Therefore, God calls Hosea to marry a woman who will treat him the same way Israel had treated God. This woman would take his love for granted, abandon him, cheat on him, humiliate him, and utterly trample on his heart. In the process, her sin would overpower, enslave, and bring her to utter ruin. At that point, God calls Hosea to give everything he has to redeem her from her slavery, and love her again.

Hosea gives us a glimpse of the horrifying ugliness of sin. It also gives us a glimpse of the tremendous depths of God's love and mercy. Our sin does not merely break God's rules and law, it breaks his heart. Furthermore, as we indulge our sinful desires, they begin to rule over, enslave, and abuse us. Nevertheless, God is faithful even when we are not. Like Hosea, God gave His most valued treasure, and Jesus gave his very life, to pay the cost of our redemption. He did this not because we were lovely, but because His is *loving*. Our sin is so bad, that Jesus needed to die to right the wrongs we've committed. At the same time, God is so merciful that He was willing to do it, so that all who repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ can be set free from sin and reconciled to their Creator.



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DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the way sin is like adultery.

Heart

To allow the redemptive love and mercy of God to transform our heart and desires.

Hands

To grow in faithfulness by putting sin and idolatry to death through the knowledge and truth of the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact
admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Hosea 3 & 14

- What initially stood out to you about the text or sermon? What did you learn? What questions or comments do you have?
- How does the metaphor of sin as adultery deepen or refine the way we look at sin?
- In what ways does Hosea point us to Jesus and the Gospel?
- What is Hosea's response to his wife meant to show us about God? What does it teach us about relating to one another?
- Pastor Jan taught that marriage is meant to be a scale model of God's relationship to his people. It is a good gift, but it is ultimately only a sign pointing us to the real thing. How should this shape the way we understand, approach, and practice marriage as Christians?
- If marriage is a sign pointing us to the Gospel, then how should this also shape the way we view singleness in the Christians life?
- The book of Hosea can be shocking for many people who are unfamiliar with Scripture. Why might it be helpful or necessary to talk about sin in ways that are shocking or unsettling?
- In what ways should we identify with Hosea in this story, and in what ways should we identify with his wife, Gomer?