

The Faithfulness of God

Hosea 3-4

- The Northern Kingdom of Israel at this point had turned their back on worshipping and following The Lord, and through the sinful leadership of their leaders have fully embraced idolatry and immorality. Now with the invasion of the Assyrians near, the people are being shown visually through the life of the prophet Hosea, and verbally with his preaching, exactly what they done against The Lord.

V1-5

- In chapter two were told how Israel after being scattered, broken, and left for dead, will be revived by The Lord, becoming fruitful once again both spiritually and practically, as the promises God made to them are fulfilled.
- **V1-3** to show how much The Lord loves Israel we are given a real life illustration by Hosea the prophet, who is told to go and reclaim Gomer his estranged wife, who at this time had left Hosea and was living with another man, this of course is an illustration of how Israel was treating God, by worshipping and serving false idols.
- Immorality takes a toll not only physically but internally as well, as both the mind and our emotions are compromised by the sinful actions of our flesh. As the sin begins to peel away the layers of who a person is, as the person who makes a practice of immorality will find that even their own personality becomes eroded, and you don't know who they are anymore, and sadly neither do they.
- When Hosea finds Gomer she is just a shell of herself, she is no longer considered Hosea's wife as he has to buy her from someone, and that person doesn't think much of her as fifteen shekels of silver is the value of a person who no longer can work or be of any service to anyone according to **Lev 27:7**. That meant she was all used up by now, the worldly sinful living had taken its toll on her, we've all seen people who had been out there too long, and life has taken its toll on them.
- Although the world had used her up and no one seemed to want her anymore Hosea shows up and tells her you still have a place with me, you are no longer a slave to sin but free to live again away from the bondage of sin.

- **V3** Hosea says you don't belong to anyone anymore including me, as your debt is paid wow! That is the message The Lord is conveying to Israel, and He still is sharing it with the world, the problem is people don't believe it, they think it can't be true.
- **V4-5** Israel was just like Gomer, rescued out of a bad state but unbelieving of God's forgiveness, and because of her unbelief she shall abide many days without King or Prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillars, Ephod or teraphim. What this is saying is Israel because of their idolatrous sin will continue in a fallen state devoid of spiritual truth, unable to discern what is of God and what is not, this is a scary place to be.
- Today look at Israel, they don't know what is true biblically and what is not, they are so blind you would think that they never even had a spiritual background, and yet God is still faithful to fulfill His promise to them. But right now she is without a King because she rejected her King both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, choosing worldliness as their king instead of The Lord > **Jn 19:15**.

Chapter 4

V1-12

- **V1-3** in chapter four Hosea gives a further breakdown as to what Israel did and the results. Here is an underlining problem in our society as well > **1. The lack of teaching the Word of God**. The results is lawlessness, when people forsake the knowledge of God, soon truth, mercy, and justice are gone also, and people begin to do what is right in their own eyes, as truth becomes what they believe it is.
- **V4-10** the lack of teaching is not because there wasn't anyone in place to teach, they simply didn't care about the people only their own self interests > **2. Corrupt and ineffective leadership**. People tend to take on the personality of their leaders, if leaders are covetous, then so will those who follow them, if their immoral, dishonest, lacking integrity, well so will the people who are following them.
- The more they increased the more that they sinned, if a person is not right with God and they're given resources then what is in them will be magnified even more, it will not change them it will only bring out faster what is in their hearts from the beginning. **V10** says for no matter how much they have it will never be enough, so they will never be content or satisfied always seeking for more, this is the world.

- **V11-14** here is the rotten fruit of not prioritizing God's Word, and having corrupt leadership > **A.** Harlotry, **B.** Wine, **C.** False Counsel, People will begin to submit to things that lead to destruction and not to peace. **Harlotry** means they sold themselves, **Wine**- to pleasure, **False Counsel**- they listened to those who caused them to feel good about their sin, as people told them what they wanted to hear, and that took repentance completely off the table.
- **V15** Judah is warned not to follow in the Northern Kingdoms ways, Gilgal and Beth Aven, were centers of idolatry in the Northern Kingdom, so their told not to get too close to them as sinful practices do rub off on us > **1Cor 15:33**- there is a reason this verse is here because if not applied this will happen to you.
- **V16-19** finally Hosea leaves them with these charges, that they are stubborn as a calf or mule, that's where the phrase comes from. Ephraim was the largest of the tribes of Israel so often Israel was called Ephraim and because he wouldn't let go of the idols God says He will let him have them. We never want God to leave us to ourselves, for the safest place is with Him > **Jer 5:31, Mic 2:11.**