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Episode 210 - Go Again
What makes redemption in relationships so costly?
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Jerry Green:

Welcome, friends, to this March 8th season of Faith Made Simple with our pastor and teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Greene, and for the past seven seasons, I've had the privilege of serving as host of the podcast, and we're so grateful the Lord has afforded us the opportunity to meet with you each week and share his infallible word. Our teacher, Pastor Todd, has a passion for explaining Scripture because, as we've said all along. Understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian's life. James 1:25 tells us that God blesses those who are obedient. So let's listen now as Todd shares his thoughts for today.

Todd Smith:

Hey podcast mania — here we are back with another Faith Made Simple episode. I hope you're having a really blessed week and enjoying God's favor and blessing in your life. Today I want to take just a couple minutes of your time, and I so appreciate you leaning into this podcast. I want to talk about a title I'd call "Go Again." What I mean by "go again" is this dogged faithfulness in your life and mine. I want to turn our attention to an Old Testament prophet named Hosea. God calls Hosea into office and tells him, essentially, "My people are spiritual adulterers." Every time we commit sin we commit idolatry — we love something else more than God. Hosea becomes a picture of God's mercy.

God told Hosea to take a wife named Gomer — a prostitute — to model Israel's unfaithfulness and God's relentless love. Some call the book Hosea "the prophet and the prostitute" or "the man of light and the woman of the night." God uses Hosea's marriage to teach that our marriages (if married) are really about displaying God's covenant faithfulness, not about contracts that can be broken. In Hosea 4 we see a people without faithfulness, steadfast love, or knowledge of God — a moral cesspool of lying, murder, theft, adultery, and child sacrifice. Hosea is told to marry Gomer, who bears children, and despite her repeated unfaithfulness he goes and brings her back. God says to Hosea, "Go again — love a woman loved by another man," showing Hosea's relentless love that models God's own.

Hosea buys her back — paying a price — and that pictures God sending his Son, paying the highest price for unfaithful people while we were yet sinners. But Hosea also gives boundaries; this isn't cheap grace. God's grace is followed by law — grace first, then guidance. Maybe for some of you there's a "go again" situation: extend grace one more time. If you're in Gomer's place thinking it's too late, know God has more mercy than your mess. Would you consider "going again" with dogged faithfulness?

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. Before we go to a couple of questions, let me take a moment and remind our friends that Faith Made Simple is a free ministry, and you can participate with us by subscribing and sharing on social media. It also helps if you leave a comment and a rating. Real unconditional love can be hard — kind of like the subject you're talking about today. What makes redemption and relationships so costly?

Todd Smith:

Probably the first thing is humility — paying a price to redeem a relationship. Pride gets in the way: “Why should I be the one?” But while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, so the stronger person should initiate forgiveness and restoration. That requires laying down pride. Redemption also takes time — trust is rebuilt slowly by consistent, sacrificial behavior over weeks, months, sometimes years. Emotionally it hurts: you must face uncomfortable truths, confess failures, and be vulnerable while the other names the pain you caused. Practically there's repair work — apologies, reparations, changed habits, tangible steps that show repentance. And finally, redemption demands persistence — you may have to “go again” many times before seeing real change. That gritty persistence models God's relentless love.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. That brings us to the end of this episode of season eight. Lord willing, we'll be back next week with another podcast. We wouldn't sign off without inviting you to visit Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California, where God's Word is taught verse by verse. For more information about the podcast or the church, visit FaithMadeSimple.net. On behalf of Todd and the team here at Faith Made Simple, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, live blessed by being a doer of God's Word.