

Sermon: 05/06/22

Hosea – Pt 5: The Perfect Father

Carrie Clark

Scripture

Hosea 11-13

Introduction

On Sunday we continued our sermon series exploring the book of Hosea with Carrie speaking on chapters 11 to 13.

Overview

In chapter 11 of Hosea, the relationship that is seen between God and the Israelites is that of a perfect Father who loves his actively rebellious children. We see that God is a perfect Father who loves His children, calls and rescues His children, heals them and leads them. He also teaches them, feeds them and cares for them.

His children however are disobedient, wayward, ungrateful, stubborn and rebellious as seen through chapters 11-13. As perfect Father, God also disciplines His children and He warns the people of Israel that if they don't return and repent, they will get destroyed by surrounding enemy forces. We also know from Deuteronomy 21 that the punishment for rebellious children is death so in this passage we see God's heart as He expresses His love for His children whilst still holding fast to His commitment to justice.

Hosea 13v14 gives us a glimpse into the day when the Perfect Son Jesus will take that punishment in their place. As those who have put our faith in Jesus, we also get to be part of God's family and know God as our perfect Father and Jesus as the One who takes our place.

Questions

1. Read Hosea 11v1-9. Can anyone share any examples of times when they've experienced God as the perfect Father, either teaching them, providing for them, leading them, healing them or caring for them?
2. Can you think of or find any other stories in the Bible which describe or show God as the perfect loving parent?
3. What are your personal testimonies of being rebellious children who've been rescued and healed? Share in pairs or 3s if that's easier!
4. God speaks of His disciplining the people of Israel throughout the book of Hosea. Read Deuteronomy 8v5, Proverbs 3v12, Hebrews 12v6, 12v10 (in the NIV if possible). What's the difference between disciplining and punishing? What can we learn about the reasons God disciplines His children?

5. Jesus the Perfect Son took our punishment for sin. He received the death penalty so that we don't have to receive it. Spend some time thanking God that we will never have to receive the punishment for our sin when we put our faith in Him.