



Small Group Notes

Sermon: 29 May 2022



Part 4

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 7-10

OVERVIEW

God continues to speak to His people through Hosea's prophetic words, and reading through the four chapters (7 – 10), He makes it clear to Israel how they had become so engulfed by sin that they ironically didn't even realise it any longer (Ch 7:1-2). Through these chapters, God isn't merely moaning, condemning or complaining about sinful conduct, but His tone remains one of a concerned parent, eager to point out the error of His children, and how their sin had an impact on the relationship He desired to have with them.

By chasing after foreign idols, Israel's **heart was divided** and gone astray. They had rebelled from God's word and commandments (Ch 8:1-4), were deceived (Ch 7:8-10), and were now living **lives that had lost their purpose**. In short, God's people lacked integrity (the state of being whole and undivided!).

Israel's punishment as a result of their rebellion and lack of integrity was certain (cf: Chapter 9), however, there is a "plot twist", and in the same breath and true to His nature, God offers them an **invitation to repentance** (Ch 10:12).

God's call to integrity is an ongoing one, and it allows us to examine our own hearts, recognise how prone it is to becoming divided and going astray and accept His invitation to repentance to get it whole again.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ch 7: 4 & 7; and compare this with Ch 5:6. What does this tell us about what matters to God when it comes to worship? And what should our response be?
2. Read Ch 8:7-8; God describes Israel's rebellion as a worthless endeavour ie. "sowing the wind", and that worthless seed bears the fruit of destruction ("reaping the whirlwind"). ie. They sowed seeds of "idolatry" and reaped the whirlwind of "exile". We may never see ourselves bowing to carved or bronze idols as Israel did, but what actions, activities or attitudes can be described as "sowing wind" in our lives today?
3. Read Ch 9:10-11; God delighted in Israel's distinctiveness! They were supposed to be like Grapes in a desert! What does this image/analogy of a 'grapes in desert' mean to you?
4. Read Ch 10:12; What does it mean for you to "break up unploughed/fallow ground" when it comes to repentance or seeking the Lord? what are you going to do about it?