

Hosea 2:1-13 A Love That Won't Let Go
Calvary Chapel Titusville 9/6/26
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For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."
(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV)

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
(Revelation 3:19 NKJV)

That is the tone of Hosea 2: holy love, painful mercy, covenant pursuit.

Say to your brethren, 'My people,' And to your sisters, 'Mercy [is shown].' (Hosea 2:1 NKJV)

Restoration begins with identity before it is seen in activity.

who once [were] not a people but [are] now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:10 NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV)

The old name does not get the final word.

"Bring charges against your mother, bring charges; For she [is] not My wife, nor [am] I her Husband! Let her put away her harlotries from her sight, And her adulteries from between her breasts; (Hosea 2:2 NKJV)

The Lord tells the truth so we can be free.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NKJV)

Biblical repentance is not self-hatred; it is returning to the God who loves us.

"Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love. (Revelation 2:4 NKJV)

God wants the heart, not just activity.

Lest I strip her naked And expose her, as in the day she was born, And make her like a wilderness, And set her like a dry land, And slay her with thirst. "I will not have mercy on her children, For they [are] the children of harlotry. For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has behaved shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give [me] my bread and my water, My wool and my linen, My oil and my drink.' (Hosea 2:3-5 NKJV)

That is the essence of idolatry: Taking God's gifts and thanking another god for them.

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify [Him] as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. (Romans 1:21 NKJV)

Idolatry is built on a lie about the source of blessing.

"Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, And wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths. She will chase her lovers, But not overtake them; Yes, she will seek them, but not find [them]. Then she will say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, For then [it was] better for me than now.' (Hosea 2:6-7 NKJV)

The frustration of idolatry can become the doorway to repentance.

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence [is] fullness of joy; At Your right hand [are] pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11 NKJV)

A disappointment can be a divine rescue mission.

For she did not know That I gave her grain, new wine, and oil, And multiplied her silver and gold--[Which] they prepared for Baal. (Hosea 2:8 NKJV)

We should examine our own hearts. Who gave us breath this morning?

"God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. (Acts 17:24-25 NKJV)

Gratitude guards the heart from idolatry.

"Therefore I will return and take away My grain in its time And My new wine in its season, And will take back My wool and My linen, [Given] to cover her nakedness. (Hosea 2:9 NKJV)

A blessing can become bondage when it takes God's place.

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24 NKJV)

God may remove a gift to rescue the worshiper.

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32 NKJV)

The Father who gave the Son is not stingy.

Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, And no one shall deliver her from My hand. I will also cause all her mirth to cease, Her feast days, Her New Moons, Her Sabbaths--All her appointed feasts. (Hosea 2:10-11 NKJV)

That is a warning for every generation.

Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, (Isaiah 29:13 NKJV)

Religious activity cannot replace covenant affection.

"And I will destroy her vines and her fig trees, Of which she has said, 'These [are] my wages that my lovers have given me.' So I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field shall eat them. (Hosea 2:12 NKJV)

God knows how to confront what we trust when it destroys us.

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, [And] hewn themselves cisterns--broken cisterns that can hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:13 NKJV)

God collapses broken cisterns so we will return to the fountain.

"but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14 NKJV)

Let the broken cistern be broken!

I will punish her For the days of the Baals to which she burned incense. She decked herself with her earrings and jewelry, And went after her lovers; But Me she forgot," says the LORD. (Hosea 2:13 NKJV)

Sin is not only law-breaking; it is love-breaking.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, (1 Peter 3:18 NKJV)

At the cross, Jesus entered the ultimate wilderness for us.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who hangs on a tree"), (Galatians 3:13 NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV)

[There is] therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1 NKJV)

Come Back to Your First Love.

Whom have I in heaven [but You]? And [there is] none upon earth [that] I desire besides You. (Psalm 73:25 NKJV)