

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title  
God's Unimaginable Love  
Hosea

Slide 2:  
Hosea 1:1-3 (ESV)  
The word of the LORD that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.  
When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.” So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Slide 3:  
Hosea 3:1-3 (ESV)  
And the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.” So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”

Slide 4:  
Hosea 11:8-11 (ESV)  
How can I give you up, O Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O Israel?  
How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?  
My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.  
I will not execute my burning anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and not a man,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.  
They shall go after the LORD;

he will roar like a lion;  
when he roars,  
his children shall come trembling from the west;  
they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt,  
and like doves from the land of Assyria,  
and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

Slide 5:

Messaging of the Twelve

- 1) Repent, and God may yet reverse impending judgment
- 2) If no repentance, this is what God will do
- 3) Regardless of the response, there is hope for future healing

Slide 6:

Hosea offers a House of Faith  
Hosea's name means "Salvation"

Slide 7:

"You asked for a loving God: you have one. The great spirit you so lightly invoked, the 'lord of terrible aspect,' is present: not a senile benevolence that drowsily wishes you to be happy in your own way, not the cold philanthropy of a conscientious magistrate, nor the care of a host who feels responsible for the comfort of his guests, but the consuming fire Himself, the Love that made the worlds, persistent as the artist's love for his work and despotic as a man's love for a dog, provident and venerable as a father's love for a child, jealous, inexorable, exacting as love between the sexes. How this should be, I do not know: it passes reason to explain why any creatures, not to say creatures such as we, should have a value so prodigious in their Creator's eyes."

CS Lewis

Slide 8:

God's Love:

- I. Is like a marriage covenant
- II. Is like being married to an unfaithful spouse
- III. Rescues the marriage through an inexplicable cost

Slide 9:

God's Love Like A Marriage

Slide 10:  
Gomer = "To Complete"

Slide 11:  
Isaiah 54:4-5 (ESV)  
"Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;  
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced...

For your Maker is your husband"

Slide 12:  
Jeremiah 31:32 (ESV)  
"(My new covenant will) not be like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD."

Slide 13:  
God voluntarily binds Himself to the joy or sadness of His creation through marriage

Slide 14:  
The intimacy of marriage makes both parties extremely vulnerable

Slide 15:  
Isaiah 62:5 (ESV)  
"...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you."

Slide 16:  
God's Love Like Marriage To A Bad Spouse

Slide 17:  
Lo-Ammi = "Not Mine"

Slide 18:  
Hosea 2:8 (ESV)  
"And she did not know  
that it was I who gave her  
the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and who lavished on her silver and gold"

Slide 19:

When it is "going well" for us (or others) it may not be a sign from God that He is pleased with us.

Slide 20:

Why purchase her?

So Hosea could experience God's love for His people.

So Hosea's heart would be broken

Slide 21:

"How can I give you up, O Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel?

My heart recoils within me"

Recoil = Haphak = "Demolished like an overthrown city"

Slide 22:

God is NOT enough

Slide 23:

God's Love Rescues The Marriage Through Ultimate Cost

Slide 24:

When Lovers Fail:

1) You support and love the person and the truth pays the cost

Slide 25:

2) You support and love the truth and the person pays the cost

Slide 26:

3) You support and love the truth, and the person, and you pay the cost

Slide 27:

What will you do with the love set upon you from God?

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read Hosea chapter 1 and chapter 3. What is this story about and how do you process? What is exciting, surprising or shocking to you?

2) What are some implications to considering that our marriages are actually His idea. And that He wants for us to experience a kind of covenant He knows all too well. And that He is our Maker who is also our husband?

In what way does this make God "vulnerable"?????

3) What are some implications to understanding that we are Gomer in the story?

4) In what way is God "caught" in His love for us? Consider His righteousness and perfection, and His deep love and commitment to covenant.

5) What does the cross solve? And how can we best understand the choices that we ourselves have in being committed to people who hurt us? How can we give them an opportunity to be transformed while maintaining the relationship?

6) Prayer and praise