

God's Relentless Love

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Hosea: Chapter 3; 1-5 (KJV)

***** God's love pursues, redeems, restores, and promises a future at great cost. *****

- 1) *Then said the Lord unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the Lord toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.*
- 2) *So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:*
- 3) *And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.*
- 4) *For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:*
- 5) *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.*

Introduction: Love That Doesn't Quit

Most of us understand love that lasts until something breaks trust, faithfulness, expectations. But Hosea 3 confronts us with a different kind of love:

A love that moves toward betrayal instead of away from it.

God tells Hosea to go back to love again, to redeem again, to commit again. And in that command, we see the heart of God toward His people... and toward us.

1. Unfailing Love That Pursues

(Hosea 3:1)

“Go, show love to your wife again...”

This is not a suggestion. It's a command.

- Gomer has been unfaithful.
- Hosea has every human reason to walk away.

- Yet God says, “Go again.”

Why? Because this is exactly how God loves His people.

Israel had chased other gods. They had broken covenant. Still, God pursued them not because they deserved it, but because His love is covenantal, not conditional.

***** God does not love you because you are faithful.**

You are faithful because God loves you. ***

2. Redemption Always Has a Cost

(Hosea 3:2)

“So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethek of barley.”

This is staggering.

- Hosea doesn't just forgive Gomer.
- He pays to get her back.

Redemption is never cheap. Someone always pays.

This moment points us forward to Christ:

- We were enslaved to sin.
- We could not free ourselves.
- And Jesus paid the price not with silver or grain, but with His own blood.

Grace is free to us, but it was costly to God.

3. Redeemed Love Calls for Faithfulness

(Hosea 3:3)

“You must dwell with me for many days...”

Notice what Hosea does not say:

- He doesn't shame her.
- He doesn't threaten her.

- He invites her into restored relationship with boundaries.

God's grace is not permission to return to old chains.

Redemption calls us into new faithfulness.

We don't obey to earn God's love.

We obey because we've already been loved.

4. Forgiveness That Restores, Not Erases

(Hosea 3:3–4)

Forgiveness here is not pretending nothing happened.

It is choosing restoration over revenge.

God forgives Israel not by ignoring sin, but by healing what sin destroyed.

For many of us, this is hard:

- We want justice and mercy.
- We want grace without vulnerability.

Yet the gospel teaches us that forgiveness is the doorway to freedom not just for the offender, but for the wounded.

5. Hope Beyond the Wilderness

(Hosea 3:4–5)

“Afterward, the Israelites will return and seek the LORD...”

- There is a waiting period.
- A season of rebuilding.
- A time without kings, rituals, or certainty.

But the word “**afterward**” changes everything.

God is never finished in the wilderness.

He uses it to prepare us for restoration.

And the chapter ends not in judgment, but in hope:

- Seeking the Lord
- Returning to God’s goodness
- A future marked by reverence and joy

Conclusion: The Love That Never Let’s Go

Hosea Chapter 3 answers one question clearly:

What kind of God do we serve?

- A God who pursues when we wander
- A God who pays what we cannot
- A God who restores instead of replaces
- A God who promises a future, not just forgiveness
- If you’ve wondered, He is pursuing.
- If you’re broken, He has paid the price.
- If you feel disqualified, He is not finished.