



Do You REALLY Know God? **Hosea 4–6**

Hosea 4:1-6a, Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel! The LORD has brought charges against you, saying: “There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. ² You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere— one murder after another. ³ That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away...⁴ “Don’t point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! My complaint, you priests, is with you. ⁵ So you will stumble in broad daylight, and your false prophets will fall with you in the night. And I will destroy Israel, your mother. ⁶ My people are being destroyed because they don’t know me.

I. God warns that religion without relationship will lead to ruin. Hosea 4:1-6

Hosea 5:3c-7a, ... You have left me as a prostitute leaves her husband; you are utterly defiled. ⁴ Your deeds won’t let you return to your God. You are a prostitute through and through, and you

do not know the LORD. ⁵ “The arrogance of Israel testifies against her; Israel and Ephraim will stumble under their load of guilt. Judah, too, will fall with them. ⁶ When they come with their flocks and herds to offer sacrifices to the LORD, they will not find him, because he has withdrawn from them. ⁷ They have betrayed the honor of the LORD...

II. God wants our surrender more than our sacrifice. Hosea 5:3c-7a

Hosea 6:1-3, “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces, now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. ² In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. ³ Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.”

III. God is not moved by mere emotional responses. Hosea 6:1-4

Hosea 6:4, “O Israel and Judah, what should I do with you?” asks the LORD. “For your love vanishes like the morning mist and disappears like dew in the sunlight.

Hosea 6:6, I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.

IV. God wants our relationship, not our rituals. Hosea 6:6; Isaiah 1:18

