

Dear Friends,

This week we will be looking at Exodus 20:14, the commandment that tells us not to commit adultery. Of course, we know this applies to sex with someone other than our spouse. We are also aware of how damaging this can be to relationships beyond the married couple. Our children and family members are hurt emotionally and may have difficulty in future relationships because of this sin. No wonder God commands us to be pure in our marriage.

I believe this commandment goes beyond the physical world we Christians live in. As we mature in our relationship with God, we come to realize how important it is to recognize our spiritual life as well. We will explore a few scriptures that support the idea of spiritual responsibility.

In the book of Hosea, we see God commanding Hosea to marry an adulterous wife. I don't know about you but if God had told me to do this, I don't know that I would obey. One of many differences between Hosea and myself. But God was using this couple as an example to us all.

Hosea 1:2-3

*<sup>2</sup>When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a adulterous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord."<sup>3</sup> So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore a son for him.*

As we read further in the book of Hosea we find that Gomer, Hosea's wife, had other children from affairs, and yet God did not instruct him to leave her. Why? Maybe just for today and this message, we can see that our lives have long-range implications that will be passed down through the generations.

When we read further in the book of Hosea, we find God telling the people that, unless they changed their hearts and actions, there would be consequences: war, captivity and God once again sending them into exile. We might wonder what this looks like even in our day. Looking at Hosea 5:4 reveals a heart of sin.

Hosea 5:4

*<sup>4</sup>Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God.*

*A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;  
they do not acknowledge the Lord.*

Are we as a people so different than these? Do we not desire worldly things over the gifts the Father offers? When we came to know Jesus, we made a vow to lay the old life to rest and to take on the new life guaranteeing eternity. We know we cannot do this on our own; we must rely on the Spirit of God to live a spiritual life. How does this start? Once again, in Hosea we find a loving God inviting His people into oneness with Himself.

God sends Hosea back to his wife.

Hosea 3:1-3

**3** *The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”*

<sup>2</sup> *So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley.* <sup>3</sup> *Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”*

We like Hosea and Gomer are being called back into reconciliation with God, and we will ultimately call Him our Husband, not our Master.

Hosea 2:16-20

<sup>16</sup> *“In that day,” declares the Lord,  
“you will call Me ‘my Husband’;  
you will no longer call me ‘my Master.’*

<sup>17</sup> *I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;  
no longer will their names be invoked.*

<sup>18</sup> *In that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the creatures that move along the ground.*

*Bow and sword and battle*

*I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.*



*<sup>19</sup> I will betroth you to Me forever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.*

*<sup>20</sup> I will betroth you in faithfulness,  
and you will acknowledge the Lord.*

Jesus calls Himself our bridegroom! Through Jesus, the Father has separated us out of the world, and we are no longer adulterers and harlots. Seekers of truth is our new calling. And God promises His followers a peaceful, beautiful eternity with Him! In our relationship with God now, we begin to live in that eternity.

Right now, this very day, knowledge and wisdom are ours, and discernment of good and evil is, truth and obedience are our weapons to fight satan as he tempts us to stray.

Your Brother in Christ,

Archie