

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Godliness

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HOSEA

God's Faithful Love For An Unfaithful People

Erik Petrik • October 12, 2025 • Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of GODLINESS

"Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: There is no truth, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land." (Hosea 4:1)

Real Christianity requires...

- **Know God's Tanakh/word** - *"Hear, oh Israel, the word of the lord." (Hosea 4:1a)*

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

- **Live according to emet/truth** - *"there is no truth" (Hosea 4:1b)*

"Pilate went back into the Praetorium, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' 'Are you saying this on your own,' Jesus asked, 'or did others tell you about Me?' 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed You over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this

*world; if it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this realm.’ ‘Then You are a king!’ Pilate said. ‘You say that I am a king,’ Jesus answered. ‘For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice.’ ‘What is truth?’ Pilate asked.” **(John 18:33-38a)***

• **Measure your life with hesed/love - “there is no love” (Hosea 4:1c)**

*“On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ ‘What is written in the Law?’ he replied. ‘How do you read it?’ He answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ‘You have answered correctly,’ Jesus replied. ‘Do this and you will live.’ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ In reply Jesus said: ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.’ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denari and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” **(Luke 10: 25-37)***

• **Commit to a life of yada/wholeheartedness - “there is no knowledge of God.” (Hosea 4:1d)**

“After you have had children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time—if you then become corrupt and make any kind of

idol, doing evil in the eyes of the Lord your God and arousing his anger, I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you this day that you will quickly perish from the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess. You will not live there long but will certainly be destroyed. The Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the Lord will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the Lord your God and obey him. For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your ancestors, which he confirmed to them by oath.” (Deut 4:25-31)

“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matt 22:34-40)

CONCLUSION: Marriage as the quintessential metaphor for our relationship with God.

For glory

For pain

For maturity