

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 - Day 304 – Hosea 3-4, Psalm 99, Matt 1

To Love as God Loves

Sometimes we are called to do some things we really don't want to do but we do them out of obedience. It's the only way we can muster up the courage to do those things we really don't want to do. In some ways, it may seem like a fairy tale, the kind where one is found in this horrifying situation and you are left with only the hope that something good will become of the sorted affair and eventually over time it does. In such situations, like the prophet Hosea, Gomer, Joseph, and Mary, we are sometimes challenged to love as God loves. Per scripture, neither man had relations with the woman they were instructed to take as their wife. In today's context, the lives of the two women in the eyes of the world are perhaps seen as untouchable. While Hosea's wife Gomer perhaps chose her ill-fated life, Mary was innocent of an act upon her. She was but a child - an unknowing participant now having to live with the shame of being a young unwed mother. Even today these women are marginalized, and not knowing the circumstances behind the choice of one and the lack of choice on the part of the other, both are expected to make their way in a world with gender inequality and abusiveness. Are we not blessed to praise a God that knows us all by name and circumstance? We are in fact blessed to praise a God that knows what and who we need despite our circumstance or what others may or may not know and judge. Guilty or innocent, both Gomer and Mary say yes to God. Both are held in the hands of God. Both are carried and protected while God's plan of salvation comes to fruition. Both experience God's love and the obedience of Hosea and Joseph willing to stand with them.

Sometimes we must do things we don't want to do. Knowing or not knowing I dare say that we all are both guilty and innocent. God will hold us all accountable as we are challenged by God's call to do somethings in this world that we don't really want to do. Yet in doing so we exhibit our willingness to say yes to God, and experience that great pleasure of being loved - and loving others as God loves us. In God's time, something ultimately good comes in the form of freedom to live, freedom to forgive and salvation from the sins of the world.

By The Very Rev. Deirdre Whitfield