

## A Masquerade of Repentance

Hosea 6-7

October 8, 2023

Sermon 7

### **Congregational Reading**

Matthew 23:37-39

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. 38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

### **Responsive Reading**

Question 1: What should we pray?

Answer 1: The whole Word of God directs and inspires us in what we should pray, including the prayer Jesus himself taught us.

Question 2: What is the Lord's prayer?

Answer 2: Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### **Message**

Well if you have been with us as I have preached through Hosea you have heard that it is tumultuous ride. I mentioned that the text that we are in right now is challenging to wrestle with. If you are new with us today in person or checking us out online for the first time we welcome you and we want you to know that Jesus loves you so very much. And as we wrestle with the text of Hosea chapter 4 on it is repetitive, tedious, relentless and uncompromising. These chapters that we are nestled in are challenging.

We just finished our Men's retreat last night and we closed with covering a topic that we all wrestle with in our lives referred to as our "fatal flaws." These are our blind spots in life that we may not see in ourselves but can cause our life to run aground or to be shipwrecked all together if we don't have people in our lives who will be honest with us.

As we have seen in the previous two chapters of Hosea, God has sent out prophets to warn the people of the judgement and destruction that is to come if the people of Israel do not turn from their idol worship, admit their guilt and come back to the Lord.

Israel is so numb to their waywardness that they aren't even listening to the prophets who warn them. They are so inflamed with the lusts for their false gods and the temptations of their rebellious living that they don't even know what the problem is. The wickedness inside their hearts has been seared in by sin.

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So when we hear the words of Hosea today as we approach chapters 6-7, know that the Lord gives us this message to warn us of the judgement He had on Israel so that we too would not fall into the snares that once gripped them.

As I mentioned earlier in prayer, Israel is under attack right now. The enemy wants to wage war against the people of God and we are seeing this unfold in real time. As you may know this was a surprise attack on Israel. The scriptures remind us of this in

1 Peter 5:8 - <sup>8</sup> Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Lets take some time in prayer for Israel this morning.

Now please stand as I read from the very word of God.

### Main Text

Hosea 6-7

- 6** “Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
- 2** After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.
- 3** Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.”
- 4** What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes early away.
- 5** Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
- 6** For I desire steadfast love<sup>[a]</sup> and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
- 7** But like Adam they transgressed the covenant;  
there they dealt faithlessly with me.
- 8** Gilead is a city of evildoers,  
tracked with blood.
- 9** As robbers lie in wait for a man,  
so the priests band together;  
they murder on the way to Shechem;  
they commit villainy.
- 10** In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing;  
Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.

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<sup>11</sup> For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed.  
When I restore the fortunes of my people,

<sup>7</sup> when I would heal Israel,  
the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed,  
and the evil deeds of Samaria,  
for they deal falsely;  
the thief breaks in,  
and the bandits raid outside.

<sup>2</sup> But they do not consider  
that I remember all their evil.  
Now their deeds surround them;  
they are before my face.

<sup>3</sup> By their evil they make the king glad,  
and the princes by their treachery.

<sup>4</sup> They are all adulterers;  
they are like a heated oven  
whose baker ceases to stir the fire,  
from the kneading of the dough  
until it is leavened.

<sup>5</sup> On the day of our king, the princes  
became sick with the heat of wine;  
he stretched out his hand with mockers.

<sup>6</sup> For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue;  
all night their anger smolders;  
in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

<sup>7</sup> All of them are hot as an oven,  
and they devour their rulers.

All their kings have fallen,  
and none of them calls upon me.

<sup>8</sup> Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples;  
Ephraim is a cake not turned.

<sup>9</sup> Strangers devour his strength,  
and he knows it not;  
gray hairs are sprinkled upon him,  
and he knows it not.

<sup>10</sup> The pride of Israel testifies to his face;<sup>[b]</sup>  
yet they do not return to the LORD their God,  
nor seek him, for all this.

<sup>11</sup> Ephraim is like a dove,  
silly and without sense,  
calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

<sup>12</sup> As they go, I will spread over them my net;  
I will bring them down like birds of the heavens;

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I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.

<sup>13</sup> Woe to them, for they have strayed from me!

Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me!

I would redeem them,

but they speak lies against me.

<sup>14</sup> They do not cry to me from the heart,

but they wail upon their beds;

for grain and wine they gash themselves;

they rebel against me.

<sup>15</sup> Although I trained and strengthened their arms,

yet they devise evil against me.

<sup>16</sup> They return, but not upward;<sup>[a]</sup>

they are like a treacherous bow;

their princes shall fall by the sword

because of the insolence of their tongue.

This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Here ends the word of the Lord. You may be seated.

**Message**

The title of today's message is "A Masquerade of Repentance". Many of you know what a masquerade ball is where everyone comes to a party and dances and parties throughout the night. All of the party guests wear a mask over their face to hide the reality of who they really are.

Today we live in a day where there is a masquerade of repentance. People hiding the mask of repentance, thinking they are hiding their true nature when in reality God sees the unrepentance of their hearts.

From the beginning of mankind, we see this masquerade take place in the garden with Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, after taking the fruit from tree of Good and Knowledge.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat[d] of it you shall surely die."

God went on to create Eve from the rib of Adam and closed out chapter 2 of Genesis with..

Genesis 2:24-25

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 3:1-10

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

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He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, [b] she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool[c] of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"[d] 10 And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Since this time mankind has continued to conceal his sins from God in order to hide the reality of who he really is. What God has made good, man has allowed sin to blemish.

When God ended each day during his creation of the world he closed the day out with looking at what he had done stating that "it was good."

On the 6th day, after creating man and woman, God looked at everything he created and said that "it was REALLY GOOD."

God loves his people. He loves us so much that despite giving us all that we need and more, we still look to disobey Him by serving lesser gods, yet He still offers a sacrificial hope in redemption through his son Jesus Christ.

As I have mentioned in past sermons, the book of Hosea captivates us in the first 3 chapters with unbelievable redemptive story. As we have seen in chapters 4 and 5 the reality of sin and waywardness gets personal and even uncomfortable.

Many people walk among us masquerading their life as a Christian when in fact they have no personal relationship with Christ. Many others believe that a life of good deeds is plenty to allow entrance into the kingdom of God or that the fickle human emotion of love is pathway around evil.

There are also devoted followers of Christ who may be masking repentance of a sin that has taken place so long in their life that it is a way of life and are numb to its entanglement on their heart.

My hope is that today's sermon calls us all back to the genuineness of the words that are laid out in the first part of chapter 6.

"Come, let us return to the Lord;... Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord."

**Let us Pray**

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In a classic comedy musical called the Pirates of Penzance, there is a scene that resembles what we see here in Hosea chapters 6-7.

In this scene there are a group of singing maidens who are imploring the local police force to go and fight a band of pirates.

The police show up at the call of the maidens confident in their abilities to take on such evil.

The maidens encourage the police force by singing the words:

Go, ye heroes, go to glory,  
Though you die in combat gory,  
Ye shall live in song and story.  
Go to immortality!  
Go to death, and go to slaughter;  
Die, and every Cornish daughter  
With her tears your grave shall water.  
Go, ye heroes, go and die! Go, ye heroes, go and die!

The police force is yet a little nervous to now go face the pirates with such a possible ominous outcome but yet nervously continue to march in place while singing about their mission to take on the pirates.

After minutes of singing and marching the maiden's father says, yes, you say you'll go, but yet you do not go.

The police force responds with song lyrics stating, "we go, we go, we go" all while dancing and marching in circles.

The maidens father again exclaims that "yes you keep saying you'll go yet you are still here."

The illustration that the Pirates of Penzance gives us is similar to the opening we see in chapter 6 and through what we see in the patterns of the Israelites throughout their history in scripture.

The difference being that the book of Hosea is anything but comical but has a message for the church today that we are to learn from. What we see in Hosea is a tragedy of the highest order. Today we want to learn from this so that we don't follow in the same footsteps.

Chapter 6 begins with what seems to be a promising message.

Hosea 6:1-3

"Come, let us return to the Lord;  
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;  
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.  
2 After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.  
3 Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;

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he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth.”

The words are poetic and seem genuine at first glance. There are lots of questions that surround these first 3 verses. The main question is one that scholars wrestle with:

Who is it that is speaking here?

These verses use pronouns such as “us” and “we” which are plural in nature. So who are the “us” and the “we” that Hosea opens up with?

Some have said that this is Hosea speaking and is including himself in the grouping with Israel and is calling them back to the Lord.

This would make sense theologically and grammatically and runs with the storyline throughout the book of Hosea.

If this is the case we could read the first three verses as entirely honest and whole.

The other argument is that this invitation is not coming from Hosea the prophet however but is coming from the religious priests.

This would make sense at some level because the priests would offer spiritual guidance and lead the people back to the Lord in times of trial.

But as we have seen in chapters 4 and 5 the priests are in fact spiritually wayward themselves.

Hosea chapter 4:1-2 says, “...the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Verse 4 continues, “Yet let no one contend, and let none accuse, for with you is my contention, O Priests.

So if Hosea chapter 6 is in fact, from the priests it changes the context of the invitation we see here.

There are good scholars on both sides of the argument. There is something that cues us in however to help us believe that the speaking party from the first part of chapter 6, is in fact the priests.

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If we go back and look at Hosea 5:15 it says,

“I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress, earnestly seek me.”

The narrator of Hosea 6:1-3 does seek the Lord’s face in distress, but no where do we see where guilt is acknowledged.

Do you notice how in times of distress people will typically rally together but then how quickly it goes back to the way it was?

I have vivid memories following the 9/11 attacks as I drove around town seeing people of all backgrounds and walks of life standing on the street corners with arms linked in the name of “united we stand”.

America was in distress and people rallied together to show support to one another, to comfort one another, to love one another. Churches were filled with people praying and yearning for the Lord. Covid-19 then struck our world and people at first rallied together...the slogans all over the place were “we are in this together”. People were seeking what their life’s purpose was as their jobs were taken and communities were shut down...and here we are again, our country is more divided than it has ever been. How quickly we forget.

<sup>4</sup>What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes early away.

In his strong indictment against both Ephraim and Judah, Hosea stresses that the love of the people for God was unstable as the “morning mist” and “dew”. The word “love” indicates continued faithful love, but the people fell deplorably short when it came to sustaining it.

I have mentioned in past sermons that if you haven’t had a chance to read through Hosea, I want to encourage you to wrestle with this text. If you want to gain a deeper understanding of the backstory that would help put specifics into context I also encourage you to read through the old testament. The book of Exodus gives a rich background to what God had already done for Israel 700 years prior.

For example, we see in Exodus 23:32-33 – This is God speaking to Israel about false idol worship residing in their land...

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“You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

Not sure how many of you have attempted a weight loss program before or maybe you simply decided at one time to start eating healthier to trim down on the waistline. I can tell you from experience, if you have tempting food dwelling in your house such as, potato chips, cookies and candy it will surely be a snare to you.

God knew this about the fickleness of His people Israel. He knew that if the Israelites even allowed these false idols to be hanging around, their love for God would be like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

Because Israel’s commitment to the Lord was short-lived and superficial He had to send prophets with stern words calling for a covenantal loyalty appropriate for a marriage relationship.

We even look ahead to other minor prophets such as Amos and Micah.

Look here in Amos 5:24-25 where we see similar warnings to what we see here in Hosea:

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

Even after the Lord rescued the Israelites out of Egypt they still clung to false idols and offered sacrifices and offerings to these false gods even while worshiping the Lord.

Many people today hold onto these “extra Gospels” in their lives. People will worship the Lord when all is good but when life throws a curve ball we have a call into the bullpen for some extra false idol insurance.

People today will infuse all sorts of add-ons to the Gospel or make their churches focal point about something other than the Gospel of Christ.

There are many churches today who will have more information written within their mission statements, on the front page of their websites and signaled all over their literature about the current social justice movements than about a transformed life of salvation that is found in Christ and Christ Alone.

God loves justice! Man tries to find human solutions to justice when Christ is saying I have the answers right here. You aint gonna find it anywhere else.

Lets look at the prophet Micah. He says in

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Micah 6:6-8

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

What God wants is a heart response to HIM, demonstrated in the basic elements of true religion. God has told the people what is good. The Mosaic law differentiated between good and bad and reflected God's will in their religious and social lives. They were to act "justly" here in the sense of "true religion". An ethical response to God has a manifestation in social concerns as well.

God is saying here in Hosea, Amos and Micah that He has no interest in the multiplication of empty religious acts.

Matthew 7:21-23

<sup>21</sup> "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup> And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

How sobering is this? Today we will partake in the Lord's supper through communion and we must be real with ourselves. Have we been playing the religion game? Have we been showing up to church to simply play the part? We have to look honestly at our motives because one day we will be held accountable for what is in our heart.

This is what God is trying to get through to the Israelites.

Hosea 6:5-6

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,  
And my judgement goes forth as the light.  
For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
The knowledge of God rather  
Than burnt offerings

If you spend time in the book of Leviticus you see over and over again the seriousness of sin and the process for atonement for the sins of the people. On a regular basis people are having to bring

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a firstborn, unblemished animal to the altar to reconcile their sins. Reading through the process of offering a sacrifice and burnt offering to atone for the sins of the people...and the volume of people needing to do this was hard to fathom what that was even like.

God is saying here that he rather there simply be obedience to Him and a knowledge of Him rather than all of the sacrifices that are taking place which indicate a pattern of sin.

The Lord later gives us a picture of the “substitutionary atonement” in Leviticus 16:20-22 ultimately fulfilled by Christ in the future.

Leviticus 16:21-22

20 And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.

This prophetic picture of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ represents Him taking on the sins of the world and the historical reality of Christ’s death that would take place outside of Jerusalem.

This is encapsulated again in the New Testament in

Hebrews 13:10-15

<sup>10</sup> We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup> For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup> So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup> Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup> For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup> Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Hosea 6:7

But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

This verse refers to the Mosaic covenant where Exodus 19:5-6 where God calls the people of Israel to obey His voice and to keep His covenant.

Hosea 6:8-11

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is a city of evildoers,  
tracked with blood.

<sup>9</sup> As robbers lie in wait for a man,

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so the priests band together;  
they murder on the way to Shechem;  
they commit villainy.  
<sup>10</sup> In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing;  
Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.  
<sup>11</sup> For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed.  
When I restore the fortunes of my people,

Hosea calls out the city of Gilead as a city of evil. This name is often applied to all of the Transjordan area. Hosea also thought of the priests who were acting like highwaymen lying in wait for an unsuspecting victim. Shechem is right off the road from the capital city, Samaria, to the religious center, Bethel. The thought here was that the priests who were appointed by King Jeroboam were selected amongst all of the people (1Kings 12:31), were robbing and murdering pilgrims both literally and spiritually.

Hosea is also referring to the “house of Israel” not as of some special house of worship in this circumstance. He directly refers to the prostitution that is taking place and then also warns Judah of its harvest time, which is referring to its time of judgement as well.

This is a long drawn out process of judgement, as you can see, in just the three chapters we covered, this judgement is relentless. As I mentioned before this is like after shock after after shock or a wave after wave beating down on the small vessel at sea.

This scene reminds me of back when we covered the book of Jonah. In chapter 1 of Jonah, as you may recall, Jonah fled from the call of the Lord to go preach a warning to Nineveh. After thinking he could out run the Lord, he boarded a ship that set out to sea. The Lord hurled a wind down upon sea and it says, “there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god”...these mariners did not know the Lord and yelled out to their false gods. While this is all taking place, Jonah is fast asleep down below the ships deck before the crew tosses him overboard and Jonah is swallowed by a great fish.

We see the similarities here as all of Israel is asleep below deck as the storm of judgement begins upon the people, they all cry out to their gods. The metaphorical large fish is about to consume Israel as it is stripped down to absolutely nothing as God demonstrates to the Israelites that He is the God of gods and the Lord of lords.

In chapter 7 we see the overall themes carry on from the preceding 3 chapters.

There is a practical disbelief of God’s government in the wicked hearts of Israel...as harsh as this all sounds, I want to remind you of how bad the sins of Israel have become. If you can imagine your own child who you raise with spiritual morals and standards. You feed, clothe, shelter and

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love your child with everything from your innermost being. You think about your child everyday and envision what they will one day become when suddenly they forget all that you have done for them. In an instant they walk away from the truth that was taught and the care they were given. Your child turns to temporal pleasures in exchange for the long term safety offered in the wisdom of your raising. As a parent, your anger for the injustices that have robbed your child of their innocence cannot be contained any longer. You must intervene, you must put a stop to this.

The pain that the Lord has for the waywardness of His people runs deep. God looks down upon Israel and sees that their hearts are inflamed with evil desires. Israel doesn't even think to seek refuge with the Lord but yet returns to its own vomit in efforts to be consoled. This isn't a one-time sin but their hearts have been seared and the evil within seeks to be removed not.

We know today, when we look around, it is getting bad. We can see the signs of Israel literally at our doorstep within our world, within our country, within our communities. No longer can you move to a place of refuge where sin isn't present within the hearts of its inhabitants. It is up to us to recognize what is taking place with Israel in the book of Hosea and acknowledge our guilt as it says in Hosea 5:15 and to genuinely seek the Lords face. It is then and only then that the Lord will look upon us with favor.

As chapter 7 closes out Hosea explains that the people howl out their terrors in the form of prayers but they seldom cry to God with their hearts. Even their prayers for earthly mercies only seek fuel for their lusts. With every empty bellow, every shallow call, they all fall short of Christ and holiness.

Such are we here by nature. And such shall we prove if left to ourselves. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

I like to invite the ushers to start passing out the communion sacraments.

This morning as we prepare for the sacraments of communion I ask that our prayer this morning is just this. God create in us a clean heart so that we can rightly examine ourselves, so that we can understand the shortcomings of our blind spot.

In Romans 3:23 says for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Each one of us here this morning have sinned against God and have sinned against one another. Many times in our pride or ignorance we fail to recognize and fail to forgive.

The Lord gives us an opportunity before the communion table to ask the Lord to renew a right spirit within us. In this right spirit the Lord commands us to love one another by forgiving our brother if we harbor any resentment against him.

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In this time, we must confess before the Lord our transgressions before approaching the communion table. We are family here at Lake Chelan Bible Church and if there is any lack of reconciliation this is a time the Lord has given us to resolve this here this morning. If there is anything that the enemy can use to divide the family, divide the church, it is a lack of being reconciled.

The Apostle Paul tells us in the first part of 1 Corinthians 13:8 that love never ends. If there are broken relationships in the church, it is not the will of God for those to remain broken. It can't be broken because love does not end.

In 1 John 1:8 says that if we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

I want to give us some time in silent prayer to approach the Lord with our requests for forgiveness. I also want to give us this time to approach one another before we partake in communion, to confess anything you may be harboring against him or her. Let's take some time to do this now.

### **Prayer and Confession**

The Lord's supper is a powerful time of reconnection, reconciliation and recommitment to the Lord by dining with Him at his table as a reminder of his ultimate sacrifice for our forgiveness and redemption. Let this moment be a time of reflection of what work the Lord has done for you and I on the cross.

The Apostle Paul gives us instructions in how to partake in the Lord's supper. He says...

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. Paul goes on to say that if we judge ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

It says in 1 Corinthians 11 that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "this is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Eat of the bread

## A Masquerade of Repentance

Hosea 6-7

October 8, 2023

Sermon 7

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Prayer

Worship

Home Group Questions:

1. In the sermon, Pastor Nick referred to the book of Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. After sinning they covered themselves up and hid from God. Today we do the same thing. In our sin, we masquerade or cover up the reality of who we are. This is not what God intended though. Why are people so stubborn to masquerade what is really going on in their lives that is isolating them from God? More importantly, why do Christians do this?
2. Today’s false idols don’t necessarily look like a golden calf. What idol(s) does the typical American wrestle with these days? (Try and get specific on this)
3. What add-ons do Christians subtly include with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
4. Read Exodus 23:32-33: How have we seen in our culture today the entertainment of false idols that have swept people off their feet? Explain.
5. How does the communion table steer believers away from gravitating towards what was taking place in Hosea with Israel?