

I Will Love Them Freely

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-6 Andrew: Children Mstry. Office Closed. Women's Xmas. Men's. REAL.
- B. Slide7 Sun Night of Prayer - Next Sunday.
- C. *Calvary Magazines* in info booth if you'd like to pick one up.
- D. **Apology:** 3 Sunday's ago I quickly retold a story from Judges, of *a Levite on a trip w/his concubine, stopped in Gibeah for a night. A man took them in.* Woman used by the men all night. [in telling the story quickly it came across flippant, which was not my heart **but** how it came across, to that I am sorry]

II. Slide8 **Intro:** *I Will Love Them Freely*

- A. Slide9 A lady asked the famous evangelist *Billy Sunday: Why do you keep having revivals when it doesn't last?* He asked her, *Why do you keep taking baths? (touche)*
 - 1. Stephen Olford said, **Revival is an invasion from heaven that brings a conscious awareness of God.** [revival becomes an overarching theme in this last ch.]
 - 2. *Revival is the church falling in love with Jesus all over again.* Vance Havner
 - 3. *Revival is that sovereign work of God in which He visits His own people, restoring and releasing them into the fulness of His blessing.* Robert Coleman
- B. Hosea's prophecy ends on a *positive note* with an exhortation to **repentance**.
- C. Hosea turns to **nature** to help him describe *the Lord & His desire to forgive, heal, restore.*
 - 1. He uses *the dew of night, the growth of lily plants, the roots & fruits of trees, olive tree branches, fragrance of the cedar tree, shade, grain, grapevine, wine, & cypress trees.*
- D. Ch.14 is the **most beautiful** chapter in the entire prophecy. **Grace shines through the threatening clouds at last.** Charles Feinberg [Listen to the plea it starts with]

III. Slide10 **RETURN (1) return to the Lord your God.**

- A. It's never too late to *come home*. Never too late to *respond* to God's loving call to repentance
 - 1. This is the key of all Prophecy; it always comes back to this. All God's judgments have this as their aim. They cry out earnestly, **Return**. Oh that we

might hear.

IV. Slide11 **REPENT (2a)** *say to Him, take away all iniquity*

- A. Take words w/you – yes *words*, how we communicate our thoughts. These are obviously *not words only* but we see the **action** of confession *take away all iniquity*.

V. Slide12a **RECEIVE (2b-4)** *receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.*

A. Receive His **Grace** (2b) *receive us graciously*

1. After confessing your sin (*taking your words with you*) then **secondly** appeal to His **grace**.
2. And remember, He is more concerned w/*the sacrifice of our lips vs the sacrifices of our belongings*. [*ie.* words from our lips that are *honest, sincere, genuine, truthful*. Lips = our verbal confession]
 - a) This is quoted later in Heb.13:15 *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*
3. Their confession is 3-fold: seeking foreign political aid (asking *Assyria to save them*). Serving manmade idols (*the work of their hands/making idols*). And their history of injustice, by mentioning God's concern for the orphan/*fatherless*

B. Slide12b Receive **Mercy** (3) *for in You the fatherless find mercy*

1. For in You **the fatherless** find mercy – I remember years ago when a family from our church flew to Russia to adopt a young girl. (you've heard & maybe experienced an *international adoption* & how difficult at times that can be, with all the **red tape**)
 - a) But 1 step was left. *A family member needed to be found to sign off on the document*. So in a very small, insignificant village, there was a little girl waiting her turn to find *a forever family*. There she waited in an orphanage, basically *abandoned by society*. When it came time for simply *one family member to sign off on the document*, **no one** in the whole town knew her.
 - b) **But** as we read here, **in God the fatherless find mercy**. And mercy was shown. And she came home with them.

(1) Ps.68:5,6 **A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families.**

2. Ps: You are in fact fatherless if you do not have **God for your Father**.

C. Slide12c Receive **Healing** (4a) *I will **heal** their backsliding*

1. **Backsliders/apostates/defectors** may return to the Lord. *But I've done _____.*
Simply seek the face of your injured Father. **He will heal your backsliding.**

2. Please do not miss the **personal message** here: backsliders may **return** to the Lord, experience His **forgiveness**, and be **restored** to the place of blessing and usefulness. 1 John 1:9 **But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.**
Own this verse!

D. Slide12d Receive **Love** (4b) *I will **love** them freely*

1. I will Love them **freely** - Freely?

a) There are *no prayers, no tears, no good works, no amount of money donated to charity*, that will entice Him...to love us. He **loves us freely**.

b) **It means:** Not even the blood of Christ was **the cause** of His love toward man. **It was the fruit** of His love, **but NOT the cause** of it.

(1) The Father does not **love** because **Christ died**, **but Christ died** because the Father **so loved**. (Spurgeon)

(2) **This fountain of love** has its spring in **itself**. **Not** in you, **nor** in me, **but** only in the Father's own **gracious**, infinite heart of goodness.

(3) Spurgeon said, *This sentence is a body of divinity in miniature. He who understands its meaning is a theologian. I will Love them **freely**.*

VI. Slide13a **REFRESH (5)** *I will be like **the dew** to Israel*

1. Slide13b Dew of refreshing. (liquid treasure) [my 1st title: *Do The Dew...of heaven*]

a) The great difference between temperatures of night and day in **Palestine** causes **heavy dews**, which keep vegetation alive during the summer drought.

b) In **Gaza** there is **dew 250 nights of the year**. Dew was considered a gift from the sky. It was **withheld** for disobedience. It was **given** in times of God's favor. It was considered a **blessing**.

(1) So when God says, **I will be your dew** He means, **I will be your source of spiritual freshness & renewing**.

2. **Grow like the Lily - Pliny** (Roman scholar and naturalist) **spoke of the white lily** which grows wild in Israel & is **unsurpassed in its fertility**, often producing 50 bulbs from a single root. (Pliny Natural History XXI. 5) from Wycliffe Commentary.

a) **Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.** Is.27:6

3. **Lengthen his Roots/take root** – The desert will become a fruitful garden where the roots go deep.

4. What was important was **the Root of the matter**. Look well to the Root, don't just expect instant Fruit.

5. Prov.12:12 **the root of the righteous yields fruit.**

6. Is.37:31 **take root downward, And bear fruit upward.**

VII.Slide14 **RESULTS (6) branches spread, olive tree beauty, Lebanon fragrance**

A. The cedars of **Lebanon**, had deep roots, luxuriant growth, and an aromatic smell. **So...**

1. Instead of being **stunted**, there will be **growth**. (6a)

2. Instead of **ugliness**, there will be **beauty**. (6b)

3. Instead of **stench**, there will be **fragrance**. (6c)

4. **What a difference it is when we obey Him.**

VIII.Slide15 **REVIVE (7) shall be revived like grain, vine, wine**

1. Fruitful again. **My people will again live under my shade. They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevine.** NLT

a) Like the **night** passing & the **morning** coming. The **sun** rises giving strength to the **flower** that has been closed up all night. The light looked at it, and the flower looked at the light. There was **contact** and **communion**, and power passed into the flower. It held up its head, opened its petals, regained its glory, and seemed more

beautiful than before. adapted from Streams in the Desert, Nov.9.

IX. Slide16a **ROOTED** (8) *Your fruit is found in Me*

1. Not my fruit, but *Your fruit is found in me.*
2. This is a **union** issue. The **fruit** of the branch is directly traceable to the **root**.
 - a) If we are not *joined to Christ*, we'll have a *barren branches*. Every bunch of grapes have been first in **the root**, it has passed through **the stem**, and follow through the **sap vessels**, and fashioned itself externally into **fruit**, but it was first in **the root**.
(1)So also is every **good work** 1st found in Jesus, **then** brought forth **in us**.
 - b) Slide16b Our **fruit** comes by *the Gardeners* sharp-edged knife, as He thins & prunes our clusters. *I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more.* Jn.15:1,2

X. Slide17a **RIGHTEOUS** (9) *the righteous walk in them*

1. Slide17b MSG - *If you want to live well, make sure you understand all of this. If you know what's good for you, you'll learn this inside and out. God's paths get you where you want to go. Right-living people walk them easily; wrong-living people are always tripping and stumbling.*
 2. Hosea ends with only 2 options: will you be a **stumbling sinner** or a **forgiven sinner**? Your choice.
 3. Oswald Chambers said, *Never try to explain God until you have obeyed Him. The only bit of God we understand is the bit we have obeyed. walk in them*
- B. How about you this morning? Did you hear the Lord whispering to your heart that you need to **return to the Lord**? Or that He would **heal your backsliding**? Maybe that you understood for the 1st time that **He loves you freely**? That He desires to be **a refreshing dew to you**? - *Who is wise? Who is prudent?* those that *don't wait* but **respond to Him this morning**.
- C. **Communion:**
1. Bread -

2. Cup -