

HOSEA

First of the 12 minor prophets

Written by Hosea around 715 B.C.

- going backwards in time from Daniel and Ezekiel

He is called to preach to unfaithful Israel

- to illustrate God's love for them, regardless of their sin

Since they left Egypt and crossed the Red Sea, God's people continuously wandered from Him and turned to other gods

Hosea can be divided into two sections:

- Ch. 1-3 Hosea's idolatrous wife

- Ch. 4-14 God's idolatrous people

-the basic outline of the book is the parallels between Hosea's wife, Gomer and God's people Israel

We thought that Ezekiel had a tough ministry

- having to lay on his side for months, etc...

- God calls Hosea to illustrate His message in a much more painful way

Hos 1:2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry, and *have* children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD."

-this may not seem that significant but remember that God said marriage was for life

- Consider the huge of a part your spouse is in your life

- it's hard enough sometimes keeping your emotions in check when everyone is trying

- But to deliberately marry someone who will cheat on you repeatedly...?

-amazing that some of us can still find reason to complain about what God has called us to do

- be a friend to the forgotten

- minister in prisons

- stay at home with the kids

- Prepare lessons for Sunday school

- doesn't seem that hard in the grand scheme of things

They have 3 sons

- Jezreel- (God will sow)
- Lo-ruhama (not pitied)
- Lo-ammi (not my people)

Ch. 3

Gomer has run off and is with another man

- God tells Hosea not only to get her back but to buy her back
- So he does and tells her she will stay with him and not play the harlot anymore
- after this, she is not mentioned again

-The next several chapters describe the iniquity and sin of Israel

-interesting verse in Ch. 6

Hos 6:6 For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

-we might think this doesn't apply to us today

- after all, we don't sacrifice like they used to
- but we still struggle with this

-although we are Christians, our flesh still thinks we need to "do" and "earn" and "work" for God

- we get asked to help out here and serve there
 - we do it because we want to honor God
 - before we know it, we are busy every night, going to meetings, stressed out and burnt out
- we let ourselves get so busy serving the Lord that we forget what it's all for

It happened to Martha:

Luk 10:38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

Luk 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

Luk 10:40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me."

Luk 10:41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;**

Luk 10:42 *but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*"

- Jesus never asked Martha to do all that work
 - but He commends Mary for just enjoying her time with Him
 - this is counter to our entire culture today, but It would do us all a lot of good I think

Startin at ch. 11, god begins to describe His love for them

- He describes their past and their failures

Look at Ch. 13:5-6

Hos 13:5 I cared for you in the wilderness, In the land of drought.

Hos 13:6 As *they had* their pasture, they became satisfied, And being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me.

- as they became well-fed and prosperous, they forgot God
 - so many people today believe that blessings from God and material possessions are the same thing
 - or that if you are not prosperous then God is withholding blessings from you

-This couldn't be further from the truth

During the parable of the sower, Jesus said:

Mar 4:18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word,

Mar 4:19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

-it's easy to think that more money or more stuff will make for a better life

-but just like the Israelites, it can happen to us

-we can get satisfied, become proud and forget about God

Hosea has a happy ending

-closes with God pronouncing a blessing on Israel

Hos 14:4 I will heal their apostasy, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from them.

Hos 14:5 I will be like the dew to Israel; He will blossom like the lily, And he will take root like *the cedars of Lebanon*.

-just like Hosea was told to take his wife back, God does the same with His children

Jesus Types:

Hosea is

- his wife was unfaithful, time and again
- but Hosea found her, redeemed her and brought her home again
- you may think, that doesn't make sense
 - Hosea's wife was unfaithful but God's children were unfaithful
 - doesn't seem like a good parallel
- That's where the picture of Jesus comes in
 - "Hosea" means "salvation" (Jesus)
 - and we are the wayward wife

-during John's revelation:

Rev 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

The commitment Jesus has for us (a wandering bride) is portrayed by Hosea's commitment to the harlot wife

- not only does He take us back time and again, but He actually bought us back as Hosea had to

1Pe 1:18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,

1Pe 1:19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.