

Extreme Unfaithfulness YET More

Sunday, February 10, 2019 — Hosea: God's Scandalous Love series — Msg 3 — Pastor Andrew Coleman

Extreme Love

REVIEW:

- 1) Hosea was God's prophet to Israel (northern kingdom) for 25 years in the 8th century BC.
- 2) Israel was grossly unfaithful to their covenant with God. They worshipped Baal gods.
- 3) Hosea's marriage and his children were an object lesson to the people of his day.
- 4) God, in His mercy, powerfully spoke through Hosea's family and his preaching.
- 5) Hosea's wife, Gomer, would be promiscuous and unfaithful to him.
- 6) Hosea's children would be symbolically named after Israel's evil and judgment.
- 7) Hosea's **base message** is, "You have been unfaithful to God. But He will be faithful to you."

Gomer/Israel

unfaithful

running away

letting go

Hosea/God

faithful

running after

holding fast

- 8) Hosea's **ultimate truth** is, "Salvation is only by God's loving, merciful grace."

9) Chapter 1's SCANDALOUS Story Overview:

- vs 2-3 Hosea is commanded to marry a promiscuous woman. He marries **Gomer**.
- vs 4-5 Gomer bears Hosea a son. God says name him **Jezreel** after an evil incident.
- vs 6-7 Gomer bears an illegitimate daughter. God says name her **No Mercy**.
- vs 8-9 Gomer bears an illegitimate son. God says name her **Not My People**.
- vs 10-11 God shockingly renews His covenant with Israel.

KEY OBSERVATIONS of CHAPTER 2 (nitty-gritty details of the scandal):

- GOD prosecutes His case against Israel. vs 1-13
- The power of Hebrew poetry intensifies the message.
- The analogy between Gomer/Hosea AND Israel/God weaves back and forth.

GOD WILL PATIENTLY AND POWERFULLY RESTORE HIS PEOPLE TO HIMSELF

The life of Hosea and his family constantly model God's message to Israel (and to us) all the way through his prophecy. The people's wicked rejection of God is met with His unrelenting love and forgiveness.

vs 1-2 God calls His people to repent of their unfaithfulness.

- 1 Say to your brothers, "You are my people,"
and to your sisters, "You have received mercy."*
- 2 "Plead with your mother, plead—
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband—
that she put away her whoring from her face,
and her adultery from between her breasts;*

vs 3-5 God threatens to expose and condemn His unfaithful people.

- 3 lest I strip her naked
and make her as in the day she was born,
and make her like a wilderness,
and make her like a parched land,
and kill her with thirst.*
- 4 Upon her children also I will have no mercy,
because they are children of whoredom.*
- 5 For their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, 'I will go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'*

vs 6-13 God, in His love, pursues His unfaithful people.

● **In love, He blocks her paths. vs 6**

- 6 Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,
and I will build a wall against her,
so that she cannot find her paths.*

● **In love, He thwarts her efforts to be satisfied in her sin. vs. 7**

- 7 She shall pursue her lovers
but not overtake them,
and she shall seek them
but shall not find them.
Then she shall say,
'I will go and return to my first husband,
for it was better for me than now.'*

● **In love, He provides for her even when she's running away. vs 8**

- 8 And she did not know
that it was I who gave her
the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and who lavished on her silver and gold,
which they used for Baal.*

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God will sovereignly and supernaturally bring the miracle of repentance, restoration and fidelity to His people. vs 16-20

16 *“And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me ‘My Husband,’ and no longer will you call me ‘My Baal.’* **17** *For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.*

18 *And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.* **19** *And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy.*

20 *I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.*

Psalm 3:8

*Salvation belongs to the Lord;
Your blessing be upon Your people!*

Psalm 62:1

*My soul waits in silence for God only;
From Him is my salvation.*

See the glorious restoration of the Lord’s blessing on His people. vs 21-23

21 *“And in that day I will answer, declares the Lord,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,
22 and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,
23 and I will sow her for myself in the land.
And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”*

Remember God’s GRAND NARRATIVE:

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, GLORY/RESTORATION