

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon Series: *Ancient Voices for Unsettled Times*

Sermon: Hosea: This is Our Story Too

Scripture: Hosea 2:16-23, 14:8-9

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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.

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.’”

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8 O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?

It is I who answer and look after you.

I am like an evergreen cypress;

from me comes your fruit.

9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;

whoever is discerning, let him know them;

for the ways of the Lord are right,

and the upright walk in them,

but transgressors stumble in them.

Reflection Questions:

- Hosea 4:6 says the people are destroyed for a "lack of knowledge" of God rather than lack of behavior or observance. What is the difference between knowing about God and genuinely knowing God, and how does that distinction show up in your own life?
- God uses the intimacy of marriage as the primary metaphor for His relationship with Israel. What does it mean for your understanding of God that He chose this image rather than, say, a king and subject or an employer and worker? What does it demand of you in return?
- Israel worshipped Yahweh and Baal, trusted God and political alliances. Where in your own life are you most tempted toward that kind of mixed loyalty rather than outright rejection of God?

- Hosea 11:8-9 God says "my heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender." What does this passage suggest about how God experiences the tension between justice and love? How does it shape your understanding of the cross?
- The book ends in Hosea 14:9 by calling the reader to be "wise" and "discerning" in understanding the ways of the Lord. In what sense is following God a matter of wisdom rather than simply obedience? What might it look like to walk in that kind of discerning faithfulness in your current season of life?

Guided Prayer:

Thank God for His relentless love and grace. Thank Him for revealing His desire for deep intimacy through the story of Hosea. Repent of the ways you have been unfaithful to God. Repent for the ways you have “mixed” trust in other things to give you identity, security, and hope. Ask God to forgive you and teach you to trust in Him and Him alone. Thank Him for the redemption you have in Christ. Thank Him for His unwavering grace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.