God Speaks to a People at Ease

Studies in Jonah, Amos, Hosea

Faithfulness Like a Morning Cloud
Lesson 11
Hosea 6:4-7:16

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
November 13, 2016
Hosea – the Love of God

- “Lovingkindness” (HESED) – 2:19; 4:1; 6:4, 6; 10:12; 12:6
- “Love” – 3:1; 9:15; 11:1, 4; 14:4
- An un-lovable nation – an un-solvable problem
- Structure:
  • The marriage of Hosea to Gomer and the births of 3 children
  • A series of four messages, or possibly one long message (4-14)
- Two messages
  • The LORD speaks to Hosea (1-3)
  • The LORD speaks to the sons of Israel (4-14)
- Outline
  • Prose – the marriage and family of Hosea (1)
  • Poetry – a message for the children of Israel (2)
  • Prose – Hosea told to love Gomer and retrieve her from prostitution (3)
  • Poetry – a message for Israel but also Judah and all people (4-14)
The Family of Hosea

- Gomer: Flagrant harlotry – forsaking the LORD
- Jezreel: wrath – termination of the nation Israel
- Lo-ruhamah: no compassion or forgiveness
- Lo-ammi: not my people; I am not your God
- The interpretation (3:4-5)
  - Israel rejected by God
  - Restoration in the last days
  - Israel will return and seek the LORD
- The application
  - The nation Israel
  - Individuals – Jews and Gentiles
- The place of Israel in the plan of God (Gen 12:1-3: Rom 9-11)
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- A charge has been made (4:1-5:15)
- A call to return (6:1-3)
- Current lesson:
  - The Divine “dilemma” (6:4-6)
    - “What shall I do?”
    - “What do I want?”
  - The root problem (6:7) – a faithless people
  - Faithless Israel (6:8-7:16)
What shall I do? (6:4)

- Message to Ephraim and Judah
- No faithfulness, lovingkindness or knowledge of God
- Return must occur
- A superficial return – “like a morning cloud”
What does God want? (6:5-6)

- Faithfulness, lovingkindness and knowledge of God
- **Not** sacrifice or burnt offerings
  - Isaiah 1:12-17; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8
  - Psalm 119:88
- God seeks what is only found in Him
Like Adam . . . (6:7)

- Adam – town or man or Adam
- Transgressed the covenant
  - “Pass over” or “go beyond”
  - Proverbs 8:29; Numbers 22:18; 24:13
- Covenant or a covenant
  - Covenant of works
  - Mosaic Covenant – the Law of Moses
  - Everlasting Covenant (Hebrews 13:20-21; Ephesians 1:3-4)
- Like Adam . . . Ephraim (and Judah)
  - Mosaic Covenant – the Law
  - Everlasting Covenant – the blessing of God
Like Adam . . . (6:7)

- “There they have dealt treacherously against Me.”
- Treacherously = faithlessly
  - Not faithful or true to the covenant (blessing from God)
  - No faith in the God of the covenant
- Adam and Israel acted faithlessly against God.
- Romans 1:18-25 – dealt faithlessly against God
- Hebrews 11:6 – He is and He rewards those who seek Him
- Hosea 5:15 – “. . . they will earnestly seek Me.”
- Adam and Israel acted against God – go beyond and faithlessly
The Consequences (6:8-7:16)

- Bloodshed (6:8-11 – see 4:2)
  - Gilead – city of evil
  - Band of priests
  - Warning to Judah

- Deal falsely (7:1-7)
  - In the presence of God – but denied
  - Hearts like an oven
  - Violence against rulers and kings
  - “None of them calls on Me”
The Consequences (6:8-7:16)

- Mixes with the peoples (nations) (7:8-12)
- Cake not turned
- Weakness not recognized
- Not return to the LORD their God or seek Him
- Silly dove – seek Egypt and Assyria
The Consequences (6:8-7:16)

- Woe to them (7:13-16)
  - Acting “against Me” – “transgressed . . . acted faithlessly”
  - “They turn, but not upward”
  - A defective bow
  - Princes fall by the sword
  - Insolent tongues
  - Derision in the land of Egypt
Faithfulness like a morning cloud

- Transgress – ”Go beyond” God
- Act treacherously against God – faithlessly
- The burning fire of sin within the heart
- But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)
- I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.” Hosea 5:15 (NKJV)