

Sermon, September 4, 2011
“Do Not Sell Yourself”, Hosea 14:1-9
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The Books of Prophecy

- Major Prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel
- Minor Prophets: **Hosea**, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
 - *Books of the Minor Prophets: A Future Hope* By the time most of the minor prophets were writing (the seventh to the fifth centuries before Christ), the promise God had made to David of an everlasting kingdom was already at least 300 years old. These prophets foresaw tremendous destruction and sorrow for God’s chosen people and for nations that would not humble themselves before God. Even so, they had faith that God would make good on His promises and send a Deliverer for His people and for those nations who would bow before Him.¹
 - *Minor prophets simply refers to the length of their writings.*

Overview of Hosea:

- Hosea is named after the prophet and author.
- Hosea means “salvation”.
- The time of the writings encompass the last days of the northern kingdom (Israel), during which six kings reigned in 25 years.
- The Assyrians were expanding westward, finally captured Samaria and exiled the people and the northern kingdom was at an end in 722BC.
- Hosea prophesied from 750-715BC, after the ministry of the prophet Amos.
- He was a contemporary of Isaiah and Micah who prophesied in the southern kingdom of Judah.
- Hosea and Jonah were the only writing prophets from the northern kingdom.
- **Overall Outline of Hosea :**
 - I. Unfaithful Wife and Faithful Husband (1:1–3:5)
 - A. Hosea and Gomer (1:1–11)
 - B. God and Israel (2:1–23)
 - C. Both Parties Reconciled (3:1–5)
 - II. Unfaithful Nation and Faithful Lord (4:1–14:9)
 - A. Unfaithful Israel Found Guilty (4:1–6:3)
 - B. Unfaithful Israel’s punishment (6:4–10:15)
 - C. Unfaithful Israel Restored to the Lord’s Faithful Love (11:1–14:9)

Major Themes of Hosea:

- The first section of the book uses Hosea’s unusual marital circumstances as a symbolic message from the Lord to His people.
- God loves His covenant people and will always take a repentant heart back no matter how far they have strayed.
- As God renews His love toward faithless Israel, so Hosea is to renew his love toward faithless Gomer.
- The second section shows Israel’s involvement in Canaanite religion.
- The Lord’s true love for His people is unending and will tolerate no rival.
- Hosea’s message contains much condemnation, both national and individual, but he also portrays the love of God toward His people with passionate emotion.
- The marital life of Hosea and his wife, Gomer, clarifies the themes of the book: sin, judgment, and forgiving love.

***No matter how far you go to sell yourself to the world,
the everlasting love God has for you will always take you back.***

¹ Mears, Henrietta C. (2011-07-01). What the Bible Is All About Handbook-Revised-NIV Edition: Bible Handbooks - An Inspired Commentary on the Entire Bible (p. 327). Regal. Kindle Edition.

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1. The Lord always has a call out to you, no matter what sin you are involved in

Hosea 14:1-9 *Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.*

- God calls you to “return”, come on back, leave where you were.
- His desire for you is to be with Him, to turn away from your sin (disobedience to God’s commands).
- The world’s desire is for you to sell yourself to IT and is opposed to God’s desires.
- Are you giving yourself away to some desire you know in your heart is not from God?
- **Titus 2:11-12** ¹¹ *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,* ¹² *instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,*

2. God wants you to change from your prostitution to the world and return to Him...

Hosea 14:2-3 *Take words with you and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all guilt; accept that which is good, and we will offer the fruit of our lips. 3 Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; we will say no more, 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy."*

- As we stumble in our daily walk with the Lord He gives us a way back to Him
- He is willing to take on our guilt, take it away, remove it
- **Titus 2:13-14** ¹³ *looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,* ¹⁴ *who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*
- Jesus has paid the price for you, accept it and rejoice with the fruit of your lips, showing the change in your heart
- Replacing God with the world will not save you, neither can you rely on the works of your own hands
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;* ⁹ *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

3. When your heart turns from your adulterous affair with the world to God, He pours out His blessings and promises....

Hosea 14:4-7 *4 I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. 5 I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily, he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. 6 His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like that of Lebanon. 7 They shall again live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom like the vine, their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

- He will heal your sin, help you conquer your disobedient heart through His unsurpassing love given to you through His Holy Spirit and His Son, Jesus Christ.
- The refreshing of the Holy Spirit, the “*dew to Israel*” give you power to overcome...
- **Romans 15:13** ¹³ *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- Hope abounds in God’s promises: when you live under His shadow you will flourish in your relationship with the Lord...blossom (become what you were meant to be); strike root (gain true knowledge through His truth); shoots/branches will spread (growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord); your beauty will show (the total of your root, branches, and fruit will be seen); fragrance (your presence will be noticed by others)

4. The grace, mercy, blessings and hope only come from God ...

• **Hosea 14:8-9** 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; your faithfulness comes from me. 9 Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.*

- Idolatrous, adulterous affairs will not save, only God will...He is the tree that provides shelter
- Saving you by His grace through faith which comes from God, not of yourself.
- Be wise and understand; discerning and know that the ways of the Lord are right.
- **No matter how far you go to sell yourself to the world, the everlasting love God has for you will always take you back.**

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