

# Hosea Lesson 2 4:1-6, 12-14 | 1/6/13

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- Overview
  - We talked last week about the object lesson that God used with Hosea's wife Gomer and the sins and adultery of Israel.
  - We are going to look more at the sinful attitudes and behaviors of the Israelites and how that affected them during the time of Hosea.
  - We are going to see how they turned from God and followed their sinful nature instead of obeying God's commandments.
  - We are also going to compare this attitude that the Israelites had to ourselves and examine our own hearts to see if we are doing things against what God would want from us.
- Background
  - God was very upset with Israel in regards to their breach of the covenant and especially their arrogant disregard for the Ten Commandments.
  - This is OT times and Christ had not yet come to the earth, so as we have studied in Romans we know that the Israelites were bound to the Law. Unlike we who are no longer bound to the law but it is still our guide.
  - We know that the Law showed us that we needed a Savior.
  - In regards to sin regardless if it was during the time of Hosea or our present time now we all struggle with sin. We know what is right but we tend to listen to our sinful flesh and do what it wants.
  - Let's examine this passage of scripture from Paul regarding our sinful nature.
    - Romans 7:21-25
      - "So I discover this principle: When I want to do what is good, evil is with me. For in my inner self I joyfully agree with God's law. But I see a different law in the parts of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me prisoner to the law of sin in the parts of my body. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this dying body? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh, to the law of sin.
      - We will always have this sinful nature and flesh, the key is that when we have our internal war or conflict that our mind that is focused on Christ should win so that we can overcome the evil desires that we will always have. We have a choice of whether or not we want to sin.
      - So the Israelites as we will see here completely gave in to their fleshly sinful nature and completely turned away from God.
  - So the Israelites had at one point abided by God's laws which we know never changed since they were given, yet the people had turned from them and had even deemed their activity as being OK.
  - **World view question: How does the world convey the attitude that sin is outdated? Can we even know what sin is anymore?**
    - **Regardless what the world says sin is still sin the truth of God has not and never will change.**
- Spiritual Decay (Hosea 4:1-6 READ)
  - Hosea 1
    - We see that God is not happy with the people of Israel, in fact a very strong statement is made here "There is no truth, no faithful love, and no knowledge of God in the land!"
    - These character traits that God was looking for in the people are the same that he has.
      - Exodus 34:6

- “Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: Yahweh-Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth.
- These traits are extremely significant:
  - Truth is all which is right, and to which God has bound himself. God is bound to the truth and anything contrary to what he has told us is a lie. Which is as abundant in our world that we live in today as they were then.
  - Faithful Love-
    - The Hebrew word chesed [KEE sid] is translated as faithful Love.
    - It expressed the most valued character trait and highest virtue in ancient Israel, and why shouldn't it be since it is a character trait of God?
    - Unfortunately it was a quality that was severely lacking among the Israelites of Hosea's day.
    - This term conveys the idea of making a commitment to another person and then keeping that commitment at whatever the cost.
    - This commitment is love...loving-kindness, forgiveness, tenderness, mercy and goodness.
- No knowledge of God
  - Unfortunately the Lord didn't see either of these qualities in the current generation of the people of Israel.
  - In fact he goes as far as to say that there was no knowledge of God, so why would he say that?
  - It not like the Israelites didn't know who God was.
  - Because to truly know God means a couple of things:
    - To know God is to know Love because God is Love
      - 1 John 4:7-8
        - “Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”
      - Since the Israelites did not show faithful love they had no knowledge of God.
    - To know God is to obey and keep his commands.
      - 1 John 2:3-4
        - “This is how we are sure that we have come to know Him: by keeping his commands. The one who says, “I have come to know Him, “yet doesn't keep his commands, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”
        - That scripture is kind of eye opening...you have someone who says they know God, let's say a friend or family member, but there life shows that they completely disobey God's commands. We don't want to be that person.
  - God didn't find the character traits of truth and faithful love in the Israelites and they were punished. In our world today these same character traits are missing from the people.



- Hosea 4:10-11
    - “They will eat but not be satisfied; they will be promiscuous but not multiply. For they have abandoned their devotion to the Lord. Promiscuity, wine, and new wine take away one’s understand”
  - He says I will destroy your mother, with mother meaning the Israel nation.
  - The men that God has sent to lead and instruct his people were failing.
  - It was their responsibility to get God’s law to the people so they certainly took a good portion of the blame for the spiritual failures of the people.
    - That would be like today if Pastor Aaron the leader of our church spent all his free time running around being blatantly immoral and having complete disregard for God’s laws.
    - If we followed a leader like that we would see his ways as good since he was doing it and it would cause us to stumble.
  - **Do you think that this is a threat to us today? That spiritual leaders can fall and give in to their sinful desires?**
    - **We should remember that our actions DO in fact influence others. Even if you are not in a spiritual leader position technically you are ALWAYS a witness for CHRIST.**
  - Hosea stated that they are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
    - This knowledge or true knowledge is that of knowing the one and only true God our creator.
    - Knowledge of God is the life of the soul, eternal life that for us is brought in the knowledge of our savior Jesus Christ.
    - Because they rejected God they are have then been rejected a priests and to make matters worse because they have forgotten or disobeyed God’s law He will forget their sons.
      - The bad decisions of the parents have affected the children.
- Sick Religion (Hosea 4:12-14)
  - Verse 12
    - Now God is focusing back on the people instead of the spiritual leaders.
      - The people were getting their spiritual guidance from wooden idols instead of seeking it from the Lord.
      - They also turned to divining rods (which were used to look for water)
      - They were being immoral and promiscuous and disobeying God.
  - Verse 13
    - The sacrificing on the mountain tops and burning on the hills was actually a belief of the previous pagan inhabitants of the Promised Land. They believed that the farther up the mountain you were the more spiritual energy that existed, so the Israelites that were worshiping idols coped this idea.
    - These trees were used by the nature-based fertility cult of the Canaanites; trees were considered special manifestations of the earth’s power.
      - So because there shade was pleasant this is where the Israelites daughters acted promiscuously and their daughters-in-law committed adultery.
  - Verse 14
    - Amazingly the Lord declared that he would not punish the Israelite daughters even when they justified their behavior in the name of religion.

