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## The Prophets Speak of Him — HOSEA

### **Warm-Up Question:**

How do you most feel loved? (Quality time, physical touch, words of affirmation, acts of service, gifts, etc)

**READ: Hosea 1:2-3; 2:1-5, 8; 2:14, 16-17, 19-20**

### **I. MARRIAGE IS A PICTURE OF GOD'S LOVE**

- ▶ Why does God tell Hosea to marry a woman instead of going to deliver a verbal message?
- ▶ What does the book of Hosea along with Is. 54:5-6, Jer. 2:2; 3:14, Ezek. 16:7-8, and 2 Cor. 11:2 tell us about how God wants to relate with us?
- ▶ If married, what are the deepest ways you have felt loved by your spouse? What does love in marriage tell you about how God wants to love us?

### **II. WE ARE LIKE AN UNFAITHFUL WIFE**

- ▶ Why does God tell Hosea to marry a prostitute (1:2)? See also 2:13, 4:1 & 5:4
- ▶ How is our sin like spiritual adultery? See Hosea 2:5; 5:4; Matt 5:27-28, 21-22
- ▶ What are some specific people or things you are tempted to love too much? Where might be seeds of or actual spiritual adultery toward God in your life?

### **III. JESUS IS THE FAITHFUL HUSBAND (Who Redeems Us)**

- ▶ Read 11:8 and share what God's heart is like toward his people?
- ▶ Read 3:1-3 and picture yourself in Hosea's place actually doing what he did. What would you be feeling?
- ▶ From 2:14, 16, 19; 3:1-3, what does God want to do for us? Read 1 Cor. 6:20, Matt. 20:28 and 1 Peter 1:18 and discuss how he accomplishes this.
- ▶ How does knowing this make you want to experience God's love all the more?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

Hosea is told to go and love a woman who has been unfaithful to him... This is what God says He has been doing with us all along.  
— Tim Keller

The love of Christ is so great that He was willing to purchase the hearts of those who had sold themselves away.  
— Jonathan Edwards

God loves His people when they are unlovely, and not for any loveliness He sees in them, but because He will love them.  
— Thomas Watson

For Prayer:

- Ask God to reveal any person or thing you might love too much in your life
- Praise God for his heart of compassion and love toward you as a sinner
- Ask God to help you love people as he has loved you



SEVEN RIVERS  
C H U R C H

# HOSEA: The Love Story We All Long For

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## SCRIPTURES USED

**Hos. 1:2** When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.” **3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

**Hos. 2:1** Say to your brothers, “You are my people,” and to your sisters, “You have received mercy.”

**Hos. 2:2** “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; **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.’

**Hos. 2:8** 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.

**Hos. 2:14** “Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

**Hos. 2:16** “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... **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.

**Is. 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

**6** For the LORD has called you like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God.

**Jer. 2:2** “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem, Thus says the LORD, “I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown.

**Jer. 3:14** Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

**Ezek. 16:7** I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment. Your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare. **8** “When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.

**2Cor. 11:2** For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

**Hos. 2:13** And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals when she burned offerings to them and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry, and went after her lovers and forgot me, declares the LORD.

**Hos. 4:1** Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;

**Hos. 5:4** Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD.

**Hos. 2:5** 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.'

**Hos. 5:4** Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD.

**Matt. 5:27** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**Matt. 5:21** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

**Hos. 11:8** How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

**Hos. 3:1** And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins." **2** So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. **3** And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you."

**Hos. 2:14** "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her... **16** "And in that day, declares the LORD, you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.'... **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.

**1Cor. 6:20** for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Matt. 20:28** even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**1Pet. 1:18** knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.