

I Desire Hesed and Not Sacrifice –Part 1

Hosea 5 & 6

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1. The nation of Israel, both Kingdoms, know they have a problem, they see their sickness. Ephraim is another name for the northern Kingdom and Judah is the southern Kingdom. (Hosea 5:13-6:7)
2. Israel is trying to worship both Yahweh and Baal and no matter how much God pushes them to repent, they won't come back. (Hosea 11:2)
3. Ephraim, the Northern Kingdom is in a position where they have a problem, but they refuse to acknowledge that it's a "God" problem and don't turn to God.
4. The Northern Kingdom of Israel is destroyed by Assyria, the nation they ran to as their solution. God stands behind it saying it's because of His judgment on them.
5. God gives Israel the cure. They have a God-caused problem, therefore God is the only solution.
6. God's punishment is not to destroy the people completely, but to bring them completely back to Him. Israel sees the problem clearly, they acknowledge that God is the one that tore them, but also understand that He's the one to heal. (Hosea 6:1-3)
7. Israel has no *Hesed*; no loyal, steadfast love. They are trying to make a service contract out of a covenant, and it is repulsive to God.
8. If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, where are you lacking *Hesed*?
 - Do you continue to seek His face in the way you give your money and time? Are you vigilant for new ways to show God kindness in your giving?
 - Does your *Hesed* show when you come to church on Sunday? Is there anything that consistently beats God out as a priority for attending church?
 - Does your *Hesed* of God show in the way you view the livestream? It's easy to fall into using the livestream for your laziness rather than your devotion to God.

HEBREW WORDS

hesed - It is a loyal love: an unending kind of love, kindness, or goodness. It is going the extra mile(s) in kindness when you technically don't have to.

QUOTES

"God is more willing to pardon than to punish." - Thomas Watson

"Acts of *hesed* are not grounded in perceived obligation or contract, nor can that be coerced; rather they arise out of affection and goodness." - J.B. Green