

E2E- Part 95

Hosea

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1. The book of Hosea was written roughly 700 years before Jesus. It was a time of great turmoil, grief, and rebellion. Each prophet delivered huge warnings to the people.
2. God's command to Hosea is intended to be a living, visible symbol of what happens when people ignore their relationship with God and turn to another "love." Hosea's marriage serves as a mirror image of the people's relationship with God.
3. Whatever pain we experience as humans in lost relationships or willful rejections, it's exponentially magnified when that happens to the Lord.
4. The Old and New Testaments are filled with constant examples of people who say they belong to God with their lips, but their actions do not actually reflect it, especially in the eyes of God.
5. The number one priority for God's people is to love God and know God. Love and knowledge go hand in hand because you cannot love someone unless you know them.
6. God desires legitimate, *sincere* love over external practice. He longs for His own to long for Him rather than simply practice religious rituals. We cannot substitute religious traditions for a relationship.
7. God commands Hosea to love his adulterous wife in the same way Yahweh loves: unconditional, constant love in any circumstance.
8. After Hosea redeems his wife, God instructs him to write a warning to the people because they were ignorant of God's Word, as they actively ignored and rejected it.
9. Hosea shows us God's heart of loving commitment. When we do sin, if we have a repentant heart, God brings us back to Himself and shows His never-ending love to us. (1 John 1:9)

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Manthanō - prolongation of Matheos; to learn: - understand, become a student of

Zanah (zaw-naw´) a primitive root- (wanton); to commit adultery (usually of the female), [less often of fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment]; figuratively, to commit idolatry:— x continually, x great, (play the) harlot, (play the) whore, (commit) whoredom, (to) go a-whoring.

Gamar (gaw-mar´) – fail; to end (in the sense of failure)

Achar - the hind or following part: - like a dog's hind leg; supposed to follow the rest of the body

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Doxology
Because He Lives
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Blessed Assurance

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

It is said that the Kingdom of God is upside down (e.g., the first will be last; to be great, one must serve; give a thief your coat and shirt). Hosea is given an assignment that makes no earthly sense and ultimately suffers rejection. Can you recall a time when you obeyed the Lord through a challenging assignment that made no sense to others? Did it include loving someone who was difficult? What was the outcome? What did you learn?

The most problematic issue revealed in Hosea is how the people chose to forsake the LORD by rejecting and not seeking to know Him. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Describe the role the LORD intended to have with His people.

Both Old and New Testaments reveal the preeminence God places on compassion (Micah 6:6-8, Psalm 51:16-17, Proverbs 21:2,3; James 2:12-14). Why do you think God desires mercy instead of sacrifice? How does this thought affect your walk with the Lord and your relationship with others?

Do you ever find yourself doing the right thing for the wrong reason? Hosea lived at a time when the majority of people performed outward rituals to Yahweh, but also sought other gods. What are some warning signs that a lesser "god" is growing in its influence in your life and competing for your attention?

Why do you think God used the analogy of marriage to describe His relationship with His people/church? (Isaiah 54:5)

Hosea shows that God's people were destroyed for lack of knowledge, revealed by their lack of interest. What easily gains and holds your attention? What is one way you can focus more on the Word of God this week?

If someone said they love their spouse but knew little about their abilities, what they enjoyed, believed, hoped or had experienced, what would you think about their relationship? If we say we love the Lord and fail to seek to know His Word and in what He delights, what does this imply about our relationship with Him?