

## **Runaway Bride... Hosea 2**

### **ME**

Look at the order of bulletin... Anything different? Easy to get caught up in the tradition of it. Apology for doing so last week & forgetting Acts 2 Offering.

*USHERS, PLEASE COME FORWARD & RECEIVE ACTS 2 OFFERING!*

### **WE**

\*It is easy to get caught-up in our way of doing things (like me last week)...

\*Though traditions may be good, we sometimes forget why we do them...

\*Sometimes, even when we have forgotten, we continue to keep tradition, even though our hearts are not in it...

\*This is what happened to people of Israel – Continued traditions, but forgot all about the Lord behind their traditions.

### **WE'VE ALL HEARD THIS STORY IN SOME FORM...**

Each of us knows a friend of a friend who has lived this:

One or both spouses forgets why they married the other; Get bored, simply going through motions of marriage...

Eventually... WORD PICTURE OF SPOUSE TURNING AWAY, BECOMING UNFAITHFUL (ie, sneaking away during lunch to meet at the local motel, late nights out “with ‘anonymous’ friends,” etc, and so on)

### **GOD**

\*Last week, we heard the beginnings of the Lord’s anger with His people, Israel, over their turning away from Him; We also witnesses God’s wrecking of Hosea’s life by marrying Him to an unfaithful wife (Gomer) as a picture of what the Lord was married to in the nation of Israel...

### **Hosea 2: 1 – 13**

\*Bring charges against your mother: The Lord speaks to those in the House of Israel who might listen (possible remnant of God-fearing folks – children called MY PEOPLE & LOVED)

Legal terminology (Bring CHARGES)–SIN is serious to the Lord (we forget this!)

\*We tend to think in terms of sin keeping us from being our best, HAPPY.

Pastor Jim Savisto from Reformed Baptist Church in Louisville says:

*“The problem with sin is not that it keeps us from being happy (though it does); the problem is that our sin offends a holy God.”*

\*Lent is a time for us to remember the jealousy of God, His hatred of sin...

Hosea’s prophecy cautions us & helps us remember, calls us to repent!

***Charges brought against God’s people by Him:***

**CHARGE: Adulterous/Idolatrous (Hosea 2: 1-5):**

\*People of Israel had chased after false gods, made alliances with other ungodly nations (being a harlot, prostitute)

Matthew Henry says,

*The God of Israel set before them His statutes and judgments, more to be desired than gold, and sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:10); promised them His favour, which would put gladness in their hearts more than corn, wine, and oil (Ps. 4:7); but they had no relish at all for these things. Where they thought their corn and oil came from, there would they return.”*

\*Do we ever chase after other gods? Prostitute ourselves spiritually?

**CONSEQUENCE:**

\*The Lord will issue the certificate of divorce being asked for by the peoples’ actions...

\*plea to scrub paint off her face & put clothes on!

\*Will show them what it is like to live unmarried to Him...

**CHARGE: Ingratitude (Hosea 2: 5-9):**

\*Gave credit where credit was not due...

**CONSEQUENCE:**

\*God was no hand-wringing, hen-pecked husband to Israel in all of this...

\*He has the upper-hand, with the good of His people in mind...

\*God would “lock her in & throw away the key” – for the peoples’ good to keep them from cheating & turn them back to Him!

\*Does the Lord ever work your life to get your attention or turn you back to Him? Is He right now?

**CHARGE: Hypocrisy (Hosea 2: 10-13):**

\*The people of Israel continued to practice motions & traditions of life with God, without actually living for Him...

**CONSEQUENCE:**

\*God was going to return her to the pitiful state in which He found her.

\*\*Post WW2 women associated with Nazis or thought to be German prostitutes were forced to shave their heads for humiliation...

\*God was going to humiliate Israel before the world (naked & destitute)

**YOU**

If I had to sum up the reasoning behind Israel's cheating on the Lord, it would be found in 2: 8 & 13:

The people did not know Him; they had forgotten the Lord...

Imagine this very plausible scenario with Hosea, as he personally lived God's illustration with his own prostituting, cheating, unfaithful wife:

*Imagine Hosea finding man's home where Gomer is, taking food & supplies; Only for Gomer to give credit & thanking the boyfriend of the day for them...*

Do you know why you are here in this church? Do you know the Lord of the Word? Does all of this church & Christianity stuff make a difference in your life outside of this building (family, work, children, grandchildren, pursuits, etc)?

Do you worship through our tradition, only to go and live the same as the world, or do you practice our tradition and worship when you go home as well because in our tradition you have encountered the Lord?

Do you remember your first love? Jesus died for your sins. Just like the woman who pursued the one lost coin, God Himself pursues you in Jesus!

Will you, this Lenten Season, turn from your idols and sin, and turn to Jesus, NO MORE to return to the spiritual prostitution?

I ask you with James this morning from 4:4 – Do you know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

**WE**

What will your life be like then? Our church? Your relationships? Your witness?