

The Valley of Achor, a Door of Hope, & No More Playin' Around...

ME

Re-enactment of Hosea in the streets pursuing to buy back wayward Gomer...

WE

Someone told me last week that they were praying for me as I preached, not knowing how I would dig myself out...

*Tough message!

Message of Hosea is the message of the Lenten Season:

*not about giving up chocolate & going to extra church services...

*REPENTANCE!!! (pointing us to year-round repentance & renewal)

Since, first part of chapter 2 is God's pronouncement of judgment on His people/His bride for running around Him, next part is an amazing paradox of God's amazing grace to that same unfaithful people...

I admit: left you hanging last week with painful message – on purpose...

*wanted you to examine whether you are straying Bride of Christ...

So, are you?

Like picture of Hosea searching for Gomer, is the Lord seeking you out because you have turned your heart from Him???

*If so, what do you do about it?

GOD

Hosea 2: 14 – 3: 5

GRACE OF GOD PROMISED

*Therefore... (v 14)

Remember: People in predicament (judgment) they were in because they did not know the Lord; they had forgotten Him...

Matthew Henry says,

“When it was said, ‘She forgot me,’ one would think it should have followed, “Therefore, I will abandon her, I will forget her, I will never look after her more.”

But **NO**, instead God surprises us with a paradox, pouring infinite & amazing grace over top of judgment...

*Next verses – the Promise – reveal purpose of judgment is to bring repentance!

Look what the Lord said He would do for His Bride:

*allure: woo, romance *bring into wilderness: restore as to better time in marriage

*tenderly: HEBREW – deal w/ her heart, soul, appeal to memory

Part of this Promise was that of RESTORATION

*Valley of Achor/Valley of Trouble: Explain Achan’s sin & consequences(Joshua 6 & 7)

Paradox: Lord would take a HUGE reminder of sin & turn it into a DOOR OF HOPE for His people!

*People of Israel deserved execution, but would instead receive grace!

*The Lord used their GREAT sin as an opportunity to show His GREAT GRACE!

*Joy of their salvation would be restored...

*Picture of the joy of a restored marriage...

**as when you first fell in love!

*So much so, name of Baal wiped from lips & memory

*Redefining of language from changed hearts!!!

*Would call God “HUSBAND” not “MASTER/BAAL”

*relational, as well as clear of relationship to God

Also, Promise of BLESSING

All of the blessings the Lord promised to remove before as judgment, He promised here He would return to His people, His wife, in full measure (remember: judgment to call to repent - Not punitive, but discipline to motivate to move toward the Lord’s will!)

*What AMAZING GRACE!

Pastor Jim Savisto from Reformed Baptist Church in Louisville says of this paradoxical grace:

*“It is as if the Lord says to His people, ‘You brazen prostitute, you have left me for other gods;
When you are at your lowest, I will take you back!’”*

*(vv 19-20, 23) The Lord assures Israel they will be **owned without stain as God’s people!**

* betrothed (x 3): God would remarry His people (intense emphasis – x 3 in Hebrew)

* Paradox: Jezreel, meaning from being “scattered” in judgment (ch 1) to being “scattered” as sown seed!

* Change of names of children – God would again claim His people & they would also lay claim on Him as their God!!!

GRACE OF GOD PICTURED (3: 1 – 5)

Hosea was living what God would do for Israel...

*Though, understandable & lawful to put Gomer away – DO NOT!

*Spend resources to bring her back, so you can choose to love her...

1 Peter 1: 18 – 19

For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.

*Gomer bought w/ a minimal price, less than a slave...

*You have been bought with a price more precious than anything–STOP CHEATING ON GOD!

3: 5 says that there would be a time when God’s people would return to David their King...

*David was dead at this point; historically, Northern Kingdom rebelled against House of David for 2 centuries

*reference to KING JESUS (Son of David), whose kingdom will never end!

The Gospel: for Gomer, for Israel, for you, for me... **We may be reconciled to God thru Jesus!**

YOU

ONE QUESTION: The Lord is wooing you. Will you turn from your sin, return to Him this Lenten Season, and come through the Door of Hope, Jesus Christ for the first time, or afresh?

WE

What will your life be like then? Our church? Your relationships? Your sharing of the faith?