

Home Group Notes H1

Hosea 1:1-2:1 Relationship with God

Introduction

What sort of relationship does God want with us, his people? We prefer talk about going to church or doing good deeds, but Hosea tells that God wants a right relationship more than anything. And He means it so much he is willing to shock people into understanding.

1. What relationships mean most to you?
2. Does God care about your relationships?
3. **Read v.1** How soon after the high water mark of David and Solomon are the kings mentioned here? Might the people be still basking in the afterglow of previous generations' godliness? Are we?
4. **Read vv.2-3** Why does God tell Hosea to marry a wife who has proved herself unfaithful? Is this an example for our moral choices? Or something else?
5. How well do you cope with complicated families? **Read vv.4-9**
6. How does v.4 show us this is no ordinary marriage? Is God immoral to use this marriage for a series of messages?
7. How many children did Gomer have while married to Hosea?
How many were children of Hosea?

How many other fathers were there?
Should this matter to Hosea?
Does it matter to God? How do we know?

8. **Read vv.10-2:1**
How does God tell that things will be put right in the future between God and his people?
9. What relationship does God want with you?
 formal arm's length relationship
 father-child relationship
 friend relationship
 husband-wife relationship
 nothing like a human relationship
10. Do you think things like Gomer's relationships need putting right? Should not those like Hosea and God just accept the way things are now, and define relationships differently? Does it matter?
11. How will you think about your relationship with God differently?
12. Will Hosea help you to pray for families/ households? Or suggest children's names?

Prayer Points

*Thank the Lord that he calls us to relationship with himself
Ask the Lord to help us be in right relationship with himself
Pray that we have compassion for those in all sorts of families
and at the same time be obedient to God's right and wrong
Pray for children who find themselves unloved and/or caught up
in complicated family arrangements
Pray for the people of Syria, South Sudan, Central African Rep.
Pray for the team from NW Argentina as they visit Cumbria*