

Home Group Notes H2

Hosea 2:2-23 God's call to his people

Introduction

Having shown his people that he wanted a relationship of covenant love with them, God bares his heart and shows his plan to them. Will they be a faithful wife?

1. If you were married, how would you feel if your spouse went off with other lovers?
2. As we see the Lord describing his relationship with his people as a 'marriage', and if Hosea is about 760 BC, about how long had they been married?
 25 years 50 years 800+ years
3. **Read vv.2-8** Being grateful to others for the good things you have but not being grateful to God for every good thing you have been given. How is that like adultery as far as God is concerned? Are you unfaithful to God like that?
4. If you were married and your spouse kept going off to other lovers, what would you do? Would you do nothing?
5. If you had chosen to live with someone rather than enter into a covenant of marriage, would it be different?

6. **Read vv.9-13** Which other gods were the people worshipping? Can you see how adultery against God is when his people worship other things and other gods as well as the Lord God? Could you be accused of idolatry? How do you make sure to worship God alone in your day to day?
7. If someone in our culture said we should join in different worship, in order to respect different religions and worldviews, what would you say?
8. Jesus said you cannot serve both God and money. Luke 16v.13. In what ways is that an example of idolatry with which you struggle?
9. What do we need to do to start putting things right? Eg 14v.1-3
10. **Read vv.14-23** In this chapter can you see how God, when cheated on by his people, tried different approaches? Can you see the purpose of each?
 shame her vv.3,10 try to stop her v.6
 stop providing for her & her other children 9,12
 disrupt her observance of Godless rituals 11
 take her away and woo her tenderly in a new place without distractions 14,15
11. When people ow can our loving God woo you back to a faithful covenant relationship with him?

Prayer Points

Thank God that he does not give up on us

Thank God that he is committed to us, wanting a relationship with us which is loving and lasting and faithful and exclusive

*Pray that God helps you be faithful in our society of many gods
Pray for a better understanding in our society of the value of marriage based on covenant love, and more to support it*