

Tender Love: What happens when the Lord's people sin? [Hosea 2:14-23]

Intro

Video = 3 Minutes

25 I will sow her in the land as My own; And take Lo-ruhamah back in favor; And I will say to Lo-ammi, "You are My people," And he will respond, "[You are] my God."

What happens when the Lord's people sin?

This is the question we began to answer last week. The immediate response to our sin from Hosea is tough love. My sin, every iniquity, every misstep has eternal consequences and leads to the discipline of Christ.

Why would God's Word lead us immediately to judgment and tough love? We find this overarching narrative thread in the living Scriptures, God is Holy and His holiness will not be compromised.

We ended our time together last week in worship with these words:

I will hedge up your way with thorns, wall you in, let you seek after paths you will not find, uncover your shame, and cause your mirth to cease. And this indictment is appropriate and just. Yet, we find in Hosea 2:14 an **unpredictable turn**. We find this eternal truth.

God's Tender Love follows His Tough Love.

At the end of our time together we will have a moment of response.

Every time we encounter the living Word of God we are called to grow deeper in faith and move away from your sin. How will you respond today? How will the Holy Spirit move you?

My prayer is that the Spirit of the Living God overwhelms you with a sense of His tender love that moves you to joy and service to the King of Kings.

Hosea 2:14-23 and Pray

The Pursuit of God (2:14-15)

The movement of the text finds us unprepared for the response of the Lord in verse 2:14.

The oft used adverb **thus**/so/assuredly that marks the promises or announcements of the Most High readies us for the impending fateful announcement but it does not come. Instead we are startled by a bouquet of promises whose elements are highlighted by the words of future assure – I Will.

God's tender love for you and His pursuit of relationship is **surprising**. Hosea reminds that **you are not beyond the Love** of the Lord or unlovable

The majesty of God's Tender love is that the Lord pursues, allures, and woos you. This is reaffirmed by Jesus Christ himself:

Luke 15:3 So He told them this parable: **4** "What man among you, who has 100 sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the 99 in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it?"

Luke 15:8 "Or what woman who has 10 silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?"

20 So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion.

This is the unexpected love of the Lord. We are depraved, sinful, and unfaithful and do nothing in our self to merit salvation. We do nothing by our strength to draw ourselves to the Lord. We don't clean up. We don't eventually get it together.

We declare, upon Scriptural authority, that the human will is so desperately set on mischief, so depraved, and so inclined to everything that is evil, and so disinclined to everything that is good, that without the powerful, supernatural, irresistible influence of the Holy Spirit, no human will ever be constrained towards Christ. – C. H. Spurgeon

But the Gospel proclaims that Jesus, the Lord pursues the unfaithful. **He promises I Will Allure!**

This morning if you do not believe in God. If you have not accepted the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ to cover your sin and make you right before the Lord. **HE still is pursuing you.**

You church person who is steeped in legalism. That is counting on your membership to gain you access to the throne of Christ. **He is pursuing you and wants you to come to repentance and salvation.**

You sinner who is broken and destroyed by your life of unfaithfulness. **God is pursuing you.**

You Christian who has believed in the Son of God, been born again, and have eternal life. God is still pursuing you.

You cannot run far or fast enough to avoid the pursuit of God. His tender love and mercy is unavoidable. Will you accept it?

So when and where in our live does God pursues us? Hosea points us to two places: the wilderness and the Valley of Achor "trouble"

The wilderness represented for Israel a place of ruin and destruction and youthful promise. In similar fashion the Valley of Achor (the sin of Achan at AI) plagued the memory of Israel for half a millennium as a vivid example of disobedience.

The wilderness in our lives represent a crucial junction. The valley of "trouble" has no great geographical significance, although it is significant historically.

The wilderness was both a place of ruin and a period when Israel learned to completely rely (as a child) and trust Her God.

What wilderness are you walking through today? The valley of “trouble” can be a door of hope today if you give it to Christ. See this valley was a gateway to the promises land.

It is surprising that there is no immediate response from the wife following the report of Yahweh’s comforting words.

What will be your response today. Find Comfort! See Hope! Sing again! Respond to the pursuit of Christ! He is pursuing you for His Glory and for your good.

The confession (2:16-17)

The tender love of the Lord does not end with pursuit. God in His Sovereignty allows us (the unfaithful) to call upon Him and call Him Father in relationship.

9 If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

What is this confession? First, a confession is **not a one time event** but lifestyle of confessing.

I stood in front of a church and declared my love and commitment to my wife. My confession did not end at the altar. It began there and continues.

Second, **the confessing of Christ/ the Lord it necessitates that I no longer call upon the Baals.**

I vowed to “forsake all others.” This is the declaration that God demands in our lives.

The new name of “my husband” now drives out the old. The calling upon the Lord means the eradication of any existence of other gods who compete. The confessing of Christ **leads to an assault on sin and self.**

But you do not fight the self-battle alone. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives within.

Also, the confessing of the Lord reflects a **change of heart.**

My mouth will not confessing Him as Savior if my heart is still given to sin and self (Baal.). Who has your heart? His Tender love transforms.

Have you truly confessed Christ as Lord. Your mouth will not say what your heart is not living. Thank God for the opportunity we have to live a lifestyle of confession.

The Covenant (2:18-20)

A covenant is a solemn agreement and **binding relationship** between two parties.

This about this: In Christ- through the tender love of the Savior- you can have a covenant with the One True God. In His covenant Savior **reinforces the renewed relationship,** shows intimacy, and reflects the context of peace.

This covenant reminds us that the sentence of **judgment is over.** **These are animals that can harm the population, their vineyards and crops.**

Our sin stores up eternal wrath and judgement. In Jesus Christ, if you accept his sacrifice, the wrath of God was poured out on the Son. **Here is a beautiful truth: if you are in Christ you no longer walk around under judgement.** You are under grace.

Hosea also shows us the breadth and distance of God's tender love towards His people: **FOREVER.**

God's Word is using legal terminology for a lifelong, final, unalterable commitment. **This is the power of the finishing work of Christ.** His love endures towards you forever. So if you feel unlovable it's not true.

God does not **leave His children empty handed** and Yahweh does not come to the covenant relationship empty handed. We see in Hosea at least five qualities thought of as the bride-price which God, the suitor, brings with Him and binds us to Him.

Righteousness-- Is a warmer and more positive thing than we might have dared to hope. God's righteousness is creative, stepping in to put the very worst things right

Justice — God is pronouncing a verdict – Guilty put the sentence has been paid. Christ makes you right before the Supreme Judge.

Lovingkindness -- by spontaneous love and the faithful meeting of responsibilities create or establish a sense of community

Mercy—a loving sensitivity. The warmest of all terms for mercy much like the heartfelt word compassion. It has a special link with the second child "no mercy"

Faithfulness -- Of all qualities this is the one most clearly lacking in a partner who has quit. Other faults may put a marriage under strain; this one is decisive

Have you ever wondered what God thinks of you? This is it—His covenant is eternal and you are not emptyhanded.

God's Response (2:21-23)

In that day – God Will answer! We do not have to guess if the Lord hears or acts. He promises. In short Hosea reminds that the prayers of the people will be answered.

The prayer of confession and repentance is always heard.

We are reminded of the power of the word of God, the same power acted in creation. God's often responds to us by his word.

God will respond to His people by sowing seeds in their life with the Gospel.

God will respond to His people by pouring out His mercy.

God will respond to His people by calling them MINE.

The reversal of the significance of the names in this verse marks a monumental moment in salvation history. As the child speaks these words, he depicts the coming of a new era of grace in God's dealings with his people

How will I respond?

Are you living in covenant relationships with the Lord?

Are you living a confessional lifestyle? Not a one time confession but a lifestyle of confession.

Are you living a joyfully living in the covenant of the finished work of Christ. Let him water you today :

Righteousness-justice- living kindness- mercy- faithful

Remember that God is pursuing you

To affirm that Yahweh is their God is to confess that he is their Savior, to submit to him as their only King, to worship him as the One who alone is worthy, and to awaken the truth that they had once rejected.

Jesus call to you today is simple: follow me. Believe that He is God/died on the cross/ rose again and trust that His sacrifice gives you new life and makes you worthy.

Live in light of His Tender Love.

Notes

Hos. 2:16 Assuredly, I will speak coaxingly to her And lead her through the wilderness And speak to her tenderly. **17** I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a plowland of hope. There she shall respond as in the days of her youth, When she came up from the land of Egypt.

- At 2:14 (16 in BHS) the cloud of judgment over Israel evident in Hosea's doomed marriage and God's accusations is lifted. Yahweh's oracles of promise (2:14-23) pave the way for Hosea's response of reconciliation (3:1-5) (TOTC).
- The movement of the text finds us unprepared for the response of 2:14. Therefore steels us for the fateful announcement but it does not come. Instead we are startled by a bouquet of promises whose components are highlighted by the words of future assurance *I Will* (TOTC).
- Wilderness
 - This is the positive and creative side of His severity, for 'the wilderness' could mean either of two things for Israel: either her life in ruins of her pilgrim spirit and youthful promise recaptured (Motyer).
 - Had a special significance for the prophets. It was the period in Israel's history when she exhibited childlike trust in her God (McComiskey).
- Allure/coaxingly
 - Can be so strong as to suggest enticement (judg 14:15) or even seduction (Ex 22:16).
- Achor—
 - The valley of "trouble". Plagued for half a millennium by the memory of Achan's disobedience at AI to the ban.
 - At the gateway of the promised land (Motyer).
 - That God radically changes this valley of misfortune and wrath into a "gateway of Hope" is an illuminating sigh of the breakthrough of His love for Israel (Wolff).
 - The Valley of "trouble" seems to have no great geographical significance, although it is significant historically. (McComiskey).
- Vineyards are only possible when all vestiges of Baal worship are cleared from the land (TOTC).
- It is surprising that there is no immediate response from the wife following the report of Yahweh's comforting words (Wolff).

Hos. 2:18 And in that day — declares the LORD —

You will call [Me] Ishi, And no more will you call Me Baali. **19** For I will remove the names of the Baalim from her mouth, And they shall nevermore be mentioned by name.

- The new name "my husband" drives out the old. The removal of the names means the eradication of any existence, any influence the Baals may have had had. (TOTC).
- I will remove
 - If it is Yahewh who removes the names of the Baal from the wife's mouth, then her new confession is represented exclusively as a work of Yahweh, and not as her own accomplishment (Wolff).
- Baal
 - Israel will no longer use the word because it will have been expunged from the language (McComiskey).
 - Literally "my master" = my Baal.
- In order for the new marriage contract there must be a change of heart in his beloved, whose evil propensities had severed the earlier relationships (McComiskey).
- Christians would do well to consider what demands the hopes of the future make upon the present (NAC).

Hos. 2:20 In that day, I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; I will also banish bow, sword, and war from the land. Thus I will let them lie down in safety.

- These are animals that can harm the population, their vineyards, and their crops. Thus the sentence of judgment is removes (Wolff).

Hos. 2:21 And I will espouse you forever: I will espouse you with righteousness and justice, And with goodness and mercy, **22** And I will espouse you with faithfulness; Then you shall be devoted to the LORD.

- The switch from them to you in the pronouns and the move from the language of security to that of betrothal mark this passage off from the preceding and reinforces the renewed relationship, shows intimacy, and reflects the context of peace (TOTC).
- Forever
 - Is legal terminology for a lifelong, final, unalterable commitment (Wolff).
- These five qualities are thought of as the bride-price which God, the suitor, brings with Him.
- Righteousness

- Is a warmer and more positive thing than we might have dared to hope. God's righteousness is creative, stepping in to put the very worst things right (Kidner).
- Means the faithful performance of duties in the community (Wolff)
- Justice
 - At bottom it means the rulings of a judge, and while a human judge may be shallow and unfair, God's justice is vast, profound and inexhaustible. God is pronouncing a verdict (Kidner).
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- Lovingkindness
 - Might be less clumsily called devotion or true love. It implies the love and bond between the parties it embraces (Kidner).
 - Kindhearted actions that, by spontaneous love and the faithful meeting of responsibilities create or establish a sense of community (Wolff).
- Mercy
 - The warmest of all terms for mercy much like the heartfelt word compassion. It has a special link with the second child "no mercy" (Kidner).
 - A loving sensitivity (Wolff)
- Faithfulness
 - Of all qualities this is the one most clearly lacking in a partner who has quitted. Other faults may put a marriage under strain; this one is decisive (Kidner).
 - Emphasizes divine constancy and dependability (Wolff).
- What is especially important here is that it is God's righteousness and justice, not Israel's that redeem Israel. (NAC).

23 In that day, I will respond — declares the LORD —

I will respond to the sky, And it shall respond to the earth; **24** And the earth shall respond With new grain and wine and oil, And they shall respond to Jezreel. **25** I will sow her in the land as My own; And take Lo-ruhamah back in favor; And I will say to Lo-ammi, "You are My people," And he will respond, "[You are] my God."

● Respond

- It is first of all a positive answer to a call for help (Nac). In short, "respond" conveys the idea that the prayers of the people will be answered.
- Second, it emphasizes the power of the word of God, the same power acted in creation.

- To affirm that Yahweh is their God is to confess that he is their Savior, to submit to him as their only King, to worship him as the One who alone is worthy, and to awaken the truth that they had once rejected (NAC).
 - The reversal of the significance of the names in this verse marks a monumental moment in salvation history. As the child speaks these words, he depicts the coming of a new era of grace in God's dealings with his people (McComiskey).
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Thoughts

Illustration

Only one king/prince can rule at a time. King of the mountain. Am I trying to run