



Series: Hosea

Passage: Hosea 1:1-9; 2:1-23

Title: The Scandalous Love of God

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 9/24/2023

Discussion Starter – What stood out to you most about the imagery of Hosea being asked to marry a harlot?

- 1) What do you think caused the nation Israel, which started out so well, to fall away from following God?
- 2) How have we observed in your lifetime as this same sort of falling away in our nation?
 - a. How do we as Christians keep this from happening in our own lives?
- 3) What do you remember most about the historical background events that led up to God speaking through Hosea?
- 4) Why do you think Jeroboam instituted idol worship? Read 1Kings 12:26-31: What additional insights did you gain from these verses?
- 5) What do you think God was doing when he had Hosea marry a harlot? What message do you think God was trying to send to the northern kingdom?
 - b. What can you personally take away from this imagery?
- 6) What does Hosea's first son, Jezreel, mean? What specific prophesy was revealed in his name?
- 7) Gomer bore a daughter named Lo-Ruhamah. What did this name mean and who did it pertain to? Why do you think God's mercy comes to an end right here with Israel?
 - c. How can we obtain the wisdom to know when it is time in our lives to withhold mercy from another?
- 8) What kept the northern kingdom from hearing the Word of God? What 3 gods were the people at that time worshipping? What made these gods attractive to worship? Why do we have the same temptations in our nation and in our lives today?
- 9) What prophetic event is described in Hosea 1:7? Read 2Kings 19:14-20 and 2Kings 19:35. Why did God show mercy to Judah?
- 10) What is the significance of the name Lo-Ammi? How is God preparing Hosea for when he will need to be the voice of God to the northern kingdom?
 - d. What is something that God has allowed you to go through so that you can better understand the heart of God and be able to communicate better with others?
- 11) What does "bring charges" mean in Hosea 2:2? Who are the charges against, and what is the judgement?
- 12) What does "she cannot find her paths" mean in Hosea 2:6?
- 13) Read Hosea 2:7: What are some of the things you see that God uses to bring His people back to Him?
- 14) Describe the goal of restoration that is described in Hosea 2:16.
- 15) Read Hosea 2:18-23. Describe the events that are happening here. Explain what life's highest purpose is based on these passages.
 - a. Share with the group a point in your life, when at the time, you thought you were being punished, but it was actually God trying to get you to a point of restoration.