



Fugitive - Part 4 Sermon Discussion Notes

Opening Thought (Background of the book of Hosea)

Hosea's name is related to the name of Joshua or Jesus and means salvation. Hosea is a picture of the Lord and his relationship to his people. Hosea was asked by God to marry an adulterous woman by the name of Gomer and Hosea's tragic marriage illustrated Israel's spiritual adultery. These events occurred around 755 – 715 BC. Hosea prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II in prosperous times. Because of Israel's worship of false gods like Baal (a Canaanite fertility deity that was responsible to provide rain and abundant crops) Samaria (Israel's capital) and the northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC.

Key Scriptures (Reading the entire book of Hosea is helpful)

Hosea 1:2-3

2 When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." 3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. NIV

Hosea 2:2-5

2 "Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts. 3 Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst. 4 I will not show my love to her children, because they are the children of adultery. 5 Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my oil and my drink.' NIV

Hosea 3:1-4

1 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. 3 Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you." NIV

John 17:3

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. NIV

1 John 1:3

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. NIV

Philippians 3:10

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, NIV

Revelation 3:20

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. NIV

Discussion Questions

1. In the book of Hosea, God compares his relationship with his people like an intimate marriage. Is receiving Christ into our lives primarily about securing a place in heaven or does it launch us into a very special relationship? Discuss John 17:3, 1 John 1:3, Philippians 3:10 and Revelation 3:20.
2. What did God ask Hosea to do that may seem odd in Hosea 1:2-3?
3. What was his wife's name?
4. What shocking thing did she do that stained their relationship?
5. What did Hosea do that illustrates his deep love for Gomer in Hosea 3:1-3?
6. Adultery is the giving of the deepest part of yourself to a person other than your spouse that you are in a covenant relationship with. How can we do this with God?
7. What are some modern day idols that lure our deepest passions away from God?

Concluding Thought

God comes after wayward people to restore fellowship.