

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015-2016

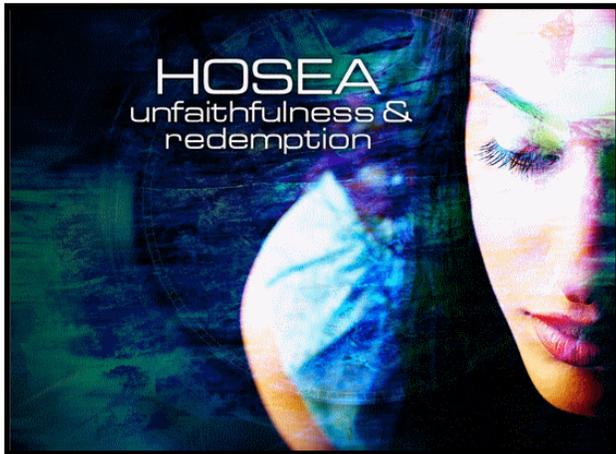
THEME: SACRED GIFTS AND HOLY GATHERINGS

UNIT TWO – “Sharing Our Joys and Sorrows”

“GOD’S UNCONVENTIONAL LOVE IN THE PROPHET HOSEA’S HOUSE”

Sunday School Lesson No. VII - January 17, 2016

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Hosea 1:1-11

Required Reading: Hosea 1:1 – 3:5

Memory Text: Hosea 1:10, *“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Study Bible (Tyndale); Libronix Electronic Library; The

INTRODUCTION

Quoting the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator: “Most weddings are joyous occasions. Both bride and groom, deeply in love, look forward to a long, happy, and fulfilling life together. Their families and invited guests have gathered to share their joy, shower them with gifts, and wish them the best for the years ahead... But imagine a marriage that the bridegroom anticipates with utter dread. He knows in advance that it will go badly, no matter how diligently he tries to make it a success. He is absolutely certain that his bride will be unfaithful to him in the future and that even their children’s names will express her shame.

This was the unenviable plight of Hosea the prophet. The Lord told him in advance that his marriage was to be an object lesson to the nation of Israel regarding their spiritual adultery. His wife would illustrate a people unfaithful to the One who loved them.”

Many Christians sing the hymn, “I Will Trust in the Lord,” myself as well, but beloved, how much will we really trust the Lord, when He wants to make our lives an object lesson of faith, love and obedience towards Him? It’s easy when the sun is gently shining upon us, but what happens when we are under the blazing heat of a desert sun? God’s love is sometimes unconventional, even in the houses of His saints. Let us examine the house of Hosea and Gomer to experience with them God’s unconventional love for a nation long exemplified in their home as we follow the Hosea story!

Who is this prophet named Hosea? His name meant *Salvation*. His prophetic ministry lasted for several decades, predicting the invasion of Assyria and living long enough to see its fulfillment. According to Easton, “Hosea prophesied in a dark and melancholy period of Israel’s history, the period of Israel’s decline and fall.” His prophetic ministry was generally to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **A Portrait of Unquestionable Obedience. Hosea 1:1-3**
- **A Portrait of Unenviable Opposition. Hosea 1:4-9**
- **A Portrait of Unbelievable Optimism. Hosea 1:10-11**

LESSON OUTLINE

“God’s Unconventional Love in the Prophet Hosea’s House”

What is God’s unconventional love? It is described by Paul in I Corinthians 13:4-7: *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”*

I. A Portrait of Unquestionable Obedience. Hosea 1:1-3

Beloved, sometimes we are asked to do some things, and we choose when it is convenient or easy to be handled. But how would you respond when commanded to do what God told Hosea to do? Yet he is responsive to the Lord with unquestionable obedience. Perhaps the greatest question asked by ancient and modern theologians is the present condition of Gomer, Hosea’s Godly ordained wife! Was she pure or impure at the time of the marriage? Great scholars attempt to define the truth and suffer many disagreements. So I stand here on the matter: The Bible Knowledge Commentary simply states, “The Book of Hosea does not provide information concerning Gomer’s pre-marital sexual experience. The expression ‘adulterous wife’...does not describe her condition at the time of marriage, but anticipates what she proved to be – a wife characterized by unfaithfulness. Any knowledge of Gomer’s status at the time of marriage is thereby precluded.”

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:28, *“But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”* God knows our past, present and future. But note Hosea. He accepts this woman as his wife, and I believe he found love in her; the kind of love defined by God as “unconditional love.” I John 4:16, *“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”*

II. A Portrait of Unenviable Opposition. Hosea 1:4-9

Beloved, the greatest portrait of a good marriage is trust and fidelity. God now allows Hosea to bear children through his unfaithful wife, and God gives him the responsibility to name them, love them, and raise them because God knows that in spite of the loose living of Gomer, the children are Hosea’s and God is teaching a great object lesson in the prophet’s house.

Remember Psalm 127:3, *“...the fruit of the womb is God’s reward.”* He knows Hosea is the father, even as Israel had a name as God’s heritage, even though they lived contrary. God knows His people. Hosea was given the responsibility of any father, to name his children. God dictated the names so as to align with the actions of Israel’s ways in the eyes of God and the public.

- A. Jezreel (vv. 3b-5).** “The Lord would withdraw His protection and Israel would suffer military defeat.” II Kings 10:1-7, the slaughter of Ahab’s house and II Kings 15:10, the slaughter of Jehu’s dynasty, all came to pass. In the very near future, Israel would fall to Assyria.
- B. Lo-ruhamah (vv. 6-7).** Name meaning *“not loved,”* exposes the fall of the Northern Kingdom would come and God will show no mercy on the north, but will save Judah in the south. (Read II Kings 19:32-36).
- C. Lo-ammi (vv. 8-9).** *“Not my people.”* God temporarily rejects His covenant people, leaving them to mass chastisement and death. But God has the last word!

III. A Portrait of Unbelievable Optimism. Hosea 1:10-11

Our lesson closes with a great day of unbelievable optimism, for God shall in the future resurrect His people from guilt and shame and unite the Northern and Southern Kingdom as one in the days of David. Then God’s unconditional love which was demonstrated in the prophet’s house will be eternally personified through His Son and our Saviour Jesus Christ!

CLOSING

Ezekiel 37:22 (NLT), *“I will unify them into one nation on the mountains of Israel. One King will rule them all; no longer will they be divided into two nations or into two kingdoms.”*

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Looking Ahead:

January 24, 2016

John 2:1-12

Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!