



EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: The Unfaithful Bride
Sermon Title: "Personally Engaged" (Hosea 1:2-4)

Connection to Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5

When Hosea was called to the prophetic ministry, he was instructed to experience the rejection felt by God. Israel was guilty of spiritual adultery before God. Hosea was to experience that unfaithful rejection firsthand. He was not detached from the redeeming work of God.

Introduction/Opening

The corporal went each day into the company headquarters to submit reports. From time to time he would hear the noise of battle, but otherwise he was removed from the fighting. He was obviously aware that battles were raging but not involved directly isolated from the reality. Hosea was called to experience first-hand the unfaithfulness of God's people through an adulterous wife. To effectively serve as God's spokesperson, he was to experience the drama of sin and redemption.

Outline

1. Hosea Engaged Personally
 - a. Hosea's calling to prophetic work was intensely personal. Hosea was not detached.
 - b. God's people had forsaken Him. They were guilty of spiritual adultery. Israel left a faithful husband, Yahweh, and sought spiritual union to idols. To call His people back to Him, God enlisted a prophet to experience adultery. This was not a parable or object lesson. It was real life. God called His spokesperson to personally experience marital unfaithfulness. Later, Hosea would be instructed to take his unfaithful wife back (3:1-5). As God was to reunite with His people, Hosea was to be again with his wife.
 - c. The picture is clear. God called his spokesperson to personally engage and experience the divine mission.
 - d. Hosea was not asked to scatter leaflets from the highest point of the Temple, he was engaged in a live drama of God's calling to His disobedient people.
2. Jesus Invited His Disciples to Join Him
 - a. In the fulness of time, to fulfill all His promises of redemption, God came personally. He became Immanuel, God with us.
 - b. Jesus was not insulated from human suffering. He experienced hunger, thirst, and the cruelty of a Roman whip. He was not distant but was right here with us. This experience of the fulness of life displays God's powerful, sacrificial love.

- c. Jesus called the apostles to live with Him. For three years they witnessed His miracles of healing, multiplication of loaves, and the casting out of demons. They heard the hostile words of religious leaders. The disciples became personally involved, carrying the gospel.
- d. Hosea's service to God was personal. The disciple's service was personal. Ours will be the same. We need not shirk from involvement but embrace our engagement.

3. Paul Engaged Personally

- a. Paul the apostle demonstrated personal engagement in service as a missionary.
- b. When Paul's credentials were disputed, He resorted to a personal defense. He recited his testimony numerous times and pointed to the marks on his body to verify his faithfulness (Gal. 6:17). His scars were evidence of his faithful engagement in the work.
- c. Paul had no regrets about his engagement in the work. Nearing the end of his ministry he expressed that he had finished his race; he had run the course (2 Tim. 4:7).
- d. We can have the same type of satisfaction by becoming engaged in the work of Jesus.

Conclusion

God's calling is personal. We will witness the suffering of sin by those who are disobedient to the righteous laws of Jesus. We will weep as we pray for stubborn lost souls, and we will celebrate when others are surprisingly changed through repentance and redemption. We are to accept and celebrate our engagement in the work of the Lord. He is worthy of our involvement, and it is worth it.

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