



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah Sermon Series  
Supports Session 9: The Sin Harvested  
Sermon Title: "Lost Potential" (Hosea 10:12)

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### Connection to Hosea 10:5-15

Instead abiding peacefully in the land of promise, Israel turned to worldly things and sinned against God, forfeiting their sacred privilege.

### Introduction/Opening

When granting a privilege, we would expect the person receiving the privilege to respond with gratitude. We would also expect them to use the privilege wisely and as something to be cherished. God granted the Israelites the privilege of dwelling in the promised land, and we would expect them to use the privilege wisely and with gratitude. Instead, we find the people taking advantage of God's grace, assuming He would always turn the other way when they ignored and disobeyed Him. Their sins and the consequences of those sins would cause them to lose the potential they initially carried.

### Outline

1. Expectations Ignored
  - a. Because of Israel's sin the land mourned, and its inhabitants wasted away (4:3).
  - b. Isaiah and Jeremiah with similar ministries compared Israel to Sodom and Gomorrah. These prophets condemned the chosen people for parading their sin and bringing disaster upon themselves (Isa. 3:9, Jer. 23:14).
  - c. The priests, appointed to teach the law ignored it and exchanged the glory of God for disgrace (4:6-8). The priests faced punishment and retribution from God (4:9).
  - d. Instead of leading like David, the kings were wicked along with the princes. They were drunkards, mockers and prayerless (7:3-7).
  - e. These grievous sins were the result of Israel forgetting their identity. They were to be God's people, but they were not living up to that identity.
2. Identity Forsaken
  - a. Like an adulterous woman leaving her faithful husband, Israel left their faithful God. This broken relationship was personified in Hosea marrying an adulterous woman.
  - b. Israel did not acknowledge that God provided abundant crops and wealth (2:8). Even though God brought them out of Egypt, they turned their backs upon Him (11:1)
  - c. Their hope was in restoring their identity as God's people. Due to the love and faithfulness of God, they could turn back to Him. There was the promise of healing with a return to the Lord (6:1).

- d. We wonder how this loss of identity was possible. In disbelief, like Isaiah, we say an ox and donkey know the benefits of their owner's trough, but God's people have turned away from blessings (Isa. 1:3).
- e. The church can lose its identity as the people of God, taking for granted God's standards as His people.

### 3. Peace Forfeited

- a. Hosea preached that the covenant rituals had become empty in Israel. Rather than meaningless burnt offerings God wanted acts of mercy and the devotion of the hearts of his people (6:6). Hosea's message is like Samuel's instruction to a wayward King Saul. Samuel insisted God preferred heartfelt obedience more than empty sacrifices (1 Sam. 15:22-23). So, without the devotion of our hearts and worship, we will not grow and mature as disciples of Jesus.
- b. Paul warned the Galatians that they must walk in the Spirit or experience the defeats of the sinful nature including immorality, hatred, and anger (Gal. 5:19). Paul warned the Corinthians that they were acting like "mere men" (NIV) as they divided into factions and fought each other. He said they were living like "ordinary people" (CSB) or folks in a fallen culture (1 Cor. 3:3).
- c. The plan for God's people is simple. The Lord willed for them to live in a land of milk and honey with secure borders enjoying the abundance of the land. The design of Jesus for us is joyously walking in the Spirit in abundant life (John 10:10). Neither purpose is automatic or possible if we turn our backs toward Him in disobedience or fail to seek His truth.

### Conclusion

Hosea proclaimed Israel had forsaken their place of privilege and forfeited their blessings of peace. Christians can do the same today by forgetting that they have been saved to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. We must continue to remember that we are called to represent Christ in this world.

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