**Loving Our Neighbors**

**A Love Only God Could Inspire**

**God’s Restoring Love**

**Hosea 14:9** - *Whoever is wise, let him understand these things, whoever is discerning, let him know them. For the ways of the Lord are right and the righteous will walk in them. But transgressors will stumble in them.*

4 truths from this passage about God’s restoring love

**I. God’s Restoring Love Remains in the Midst of Incredible Betrayal (2:2-13)**

A. Israel/Gomer run to other “husbands” for joy and satisfaction (vv. 2, 5)

B. Israel/Gomer give credit for their prosperity to their adulterous sources (vv, 2, 5, 8)

**Hosea 2:8** - *For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, and lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.*

**II. God’s Restoring Love Includes the Concept of Discipline (2:2-13)**

 “Cheap grace preaches forgiveness without repentance, church membership without rigorous church discipline, discipleship without obedience, blessing without persecution, joy without righteousness, results without obedience. In the entire history of the church, has there ever been another generation with so many nominal Christians and so few real obedient ones?” (D. A. Carson, Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount [Grand Rapids: Global Christian, 1999], 139-40)

A. Israel/Gomer’s adulterous ways would be exposed

**Hosea 2:2** - *Contend with your mother, contend, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; and let her put away her harlotry from her face and her adultery from between her breasts,*

**Hosea 2:10** - *And then I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one will rescue her out of My hand.*

B. God withholds additional blessing and brings sorrow instead

**Hosea 2:6-7** - *Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths. She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; and she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, “I will go back to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now!”*

**Hosea 2:9** - *Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time and My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax given to cover her nakedness.*

**Hosea 2:11-12** - *I will also put an end to all her gaiety, her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths and all her festal assemblies. I will destroy her vines and fig trees, of which she said, “These are my wages which my lovers have given me.” And I will make them a forest, and the beasts of the field will devour them.*

**III. God’s Restoring Love Reverses Every Aspect of Discipline and Judgment (2:14-3:5)**

A. God will allure his bride back to him (2:14, 16)

**Hosea 2:14** - *Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her.*

**Hosea 2:16** - *“It will come about in that day,” declares the LORD, “That you will call Me Ishi and will no longer call Me Baali.*

B. God will give blessing upon blessing (15, 18-20)

**Hosea 2:15** - *Then I will give her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.*

**Hosea 2:18-20** - *In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety. I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.*

C. God will sow (Jezreel), be compassionate (Ruhamah), and they will be his people (Ammi)

**Hosea 2:17** - *For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, so that they will be mentioned by their names no more.*

**Hosea 2:21-23** - *“It will come about in that day that I will respond,” declares the LORD. “I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth, and the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, and I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they will say, ‘You are my God!’”*

D. God’s restoring love displayed by Hosea’s marriage to Gomer (3:1-5)

**IV. God’s Restoring Love is Ultimately Seen in the Person of Jesus the King (3:5)**

**Hosea 3:5** - *Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days.*

**Take Aways**

* Friends, all of you who have placed your faith and trust in Christ are loved by God with THIS restoring love
* You are the bride of Christ and Christ promises to love you with his covenant love even in the midst of your unfaithfulness.
* Your unfaithfulness is not a license to sin in further ways for God’s restoring love includes discipline. That was the argument of Romans 6 … should we be free to sin? Absolutely not … We are DEAD to Sin and Alive to God.
* There is an inherent call to devotion, loyalty, and commitment to Jesus as your king, master, and ruler. If your king wants you to change, then today is the day to start. Lean into your king, bow before him, and evaluate everything you do by whether it honors him.