

The Teaching Prostitute

Hosea 1:2-9

INTRODUCTION

- A. Pictures often provide more information than words ever could.
- B. God picked some unusual visual aids to teach his people.
 - 1. Isaiah walked around naked for three years to show that the King of Assyria would overtake the Egyptians & Ethiopians (Is 20).
 - 2. God took Ezekiel's wife, but Ezekiel could not mourn because God was about to take from Jerusalem all that was dear to them (Ez 24:15-24).
- C. Here, God uses the picture of a prostitute.
 - 1. That's a strong picture.
 - 2. We normally wouldn't hire a preacher who had a prostitute for a wife.

PICTURE OF SIN, vv 2-3

- A. God told Hosea to go marry a prostitute & to have children of prostitution.
 - 1. He was to do this because the land committed prostitution.
 - 2. They did this by following idols.
 - a. The Canaanite religion of Baal worship had infiltrated Israel.
 - b. Hos 4:12-13—The god the people worshiped wasn't the LORD.
- B. We don't deal a lot with idols today. But, we do deal with people putting things before God.
 - 1. Are things more important than worship?
 - a. Many say Sunday night worship & Wednesday night Bible study aren't really that important.
 - b. But, God demands to be first in our lives.
 - 2. How do we use our money?
 - a. How we use our money says much about what's important in our lives.
 - b. Do we use our money in the service of God?
- C. This is a strong picture. When we put other things in front of God, we are "prostitutes." We have left God; we are unfaithful.

PICTURE OF GOD'S RESPONSE, vv 4-9

- A. Sin brings judgment, vv 4-9.
 - 1. God told Hosea to name his first child Jezreel.
 - a. he was to do this because in a little while God would punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel.
 - b. he would do this by putting an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.
 - 2. This passage causes some problems:
 - a. Jehu massacred the house of Joram to overtake the throne (2 Ki 9-10).
 - b. But, God through a prophet told him to do it (2 Ki 9:6-10).
 - c. God even commended Jehu for carrying out his wishes (2 Ki 10:30).
 - 3. But, Jehu's heart was wrong.
 - a. 2 Ki 10:29, 31—Jehu didn't follow YHWH.
 - b. He murdered the sons of Ahab in a ruthless way—he had their heads sent to him at Jezreel (2 Ki 10:7-10).

4. When we serve God, we need to do so with a pure heart.
 - a. God wanted to execute justice upon the house of Ahab.
 - b. Jehu wanted to overtake a kingdom.
 5. Because Jehu was power hungry, God was going to punish the kingdom of Israel.
 - a. God would break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel, v 5.
 - b. In other words, the Assyrians would take them captive (722 BC).
 6. If our hearts are wrong, God will punish us.
- B. God shows no pity to sinners, vv 6-7.
1. Gomer bore Hosea another child—"Not pitied."
 - a. This would show that God would have no pity on the house of Israel.
 - b. He would not forgive their sins.
 2. There comes a time when God's patience runs out.
 - a. God had been patient with Israel, but his patience was wearing thin.
 - b. God was ready to judge Israel & send the country into captivity.
 - c. At Judgment, mercy will have been exhausted. God will no longer have pity.
- C. God does not belong to an apostate people, vv 8-9.
1. Gomer bore a third child.
 - a. Hosea was to name the child "Not my people."
 - b. He was to do this because Israel was not God's people & God was not their God.
 2. This was a divorce formula.
 - a. "She is not my wife, and I am not her husband" was a common divorce formula in the Ancient Near East.
 - b. God is divorcing his people.
 - c. The people have been unfaithful, broken their covenant, and God is divorcing them.
 3. God will divorce us if we are unfaithful—we will no longer belong to him.
- D. God still loves, 3:1-5.
1. God told Hosea to go again & love a woman who had a lover and who is an adulteress.
 - a. He was to do this because God loves Israel even though they turn to other gods.
 - b. He was to do this because God loves Israel even though they love raisin cakes—raisin cakes were used in pagan festivals.
 2. Hosea went bought his wife as though she were a slave.
 - a. That a picture of love.
 - b. Even though she had been unfaithful, Hosea welcomed her home.
 - c. Even though we are unfaithful at times, God will welcome us home.
 3. God loves us even though we are imperfect.
 4. Even though God loves, he punishes.
 - a. Gomer would remain with Hosea many days—she would no longer have intercourse with a man.
 - b. This would symbolize that things important to Israel would soon be taken away.