

Foundation of the sermon

Purpose

Look at the dangers of Spiritual compromise in our churches and in our lives.

Principle Idea:

Israel had rejected God by practicing false religion, God had rejected them. Pray and lament our current condition for we like Israel have rejected Him by taking on false worship

Type of Outline

Expository based on Hosea 1

I. Introduction

Today we begin a new series of sermons based on the book of Hosea. We will look today at Hosea 1. We find the nation of Israel separated from Judah. As we enter the text we find that they have incorporated the worship of the Baals in their sanctuary. They have corrupted every part of their moral and spiritual lives.

This passage shows the rejection of them as God's people, because they have rejected Him. God compares their worship to adultery and "whoredom."

Today the worship in America has compromised with the religious ideas of others. We try so hard to be "tolerant" and politically correct and careful to craft our message to the "world." We like Israel have created our own form of worship trying to mix the Biblical teachings with the teachings of the world. As a result our churches are weak, and Christians themselves are emaciated for the lack of food, and carnal in our way of worship.

God appeals to Israel to return, and He promises them ultimate redemption. But at this point in Hosea 1 God rejects them as His people, He promises to scatter them, He promises to show them no mercy.

We must pray that God will cause our nations, our churches and even we ourselves to return to Him and that His punishments of rejection, scattering, and no mercy will not be applied to us and our churches.

II. Body

1 The word of the LORD that came unto Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

4 And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

A. Whoredom and Children of Whoredom. -- The deplorable condition of Israel at the time of Hosea. (1,2)

Hosea had to select a wife of whoredom, and children of whoredom. This act pictured the state of the nation of Israel at the time of Hosea. The nation had rejected God, they had by this time built their own temple in Samara. They had put inside that temple "golden calves" to worship. The nation was steeped in idolatry. The selection of Gomer did not necessarily indicate her personal moral state. It did not indicate that the prophet was supposed to have children with her out of the bonds of marriage. It represented the moral decline of the nation.

In today's world, in American society relationships outside of the bonds of marriage are considered the norm. We look with suspicion upon any young man or young women who enter into the bonds of marriage in a state of purity. Or schools teach sex education with the idea that young people will naturally follow their animalistic lusts with the statement "well their going to do it anyway, so let's teach them to do it in a protected way"

We seem to be bent on calling every deviate perversion as natural and normal as the choice of "lifestyle" rather than sin.

Having said that, I would say that our "lifestyle" choices are less about sex itself and more about the "whoredoms" of rejecting God. We seek to be tolerant of every form of heresy, and every form of religious expression. We want to make sure we are politically correct in our response to the view of others with the idea that "all roads lead to God."

Now, I am not advocating, and frankly abhor the actions of some by "killing" or "hurting" someone because they belong to another religious group or own a clinic performing "abortions." But we must not ever give even tacit approval for these expressions. We believe that the only way to eternal life is through Jesus Christ and through Him alone.

Our society could be characterized by the "whoredoms" and we are the "children of whoredoms" much like Israel of Hosea's day. Our adultery with the religious beliefs of the world have led us to compromise on a national level, and on a personal level. Being in the cesspool of ideas our own natures are being corrupted by the world.

Like Gomer was destined for the adulterous lifestyle of the prostitute, our society leads us down the road to compromised morality, heretical religion and sin.

This cultural "whoredom" in Israel led to three areas of punishment for Israel.

B. The scattering - Punishment 1 for the sin of Spiritual Idolatry (Hosea 1:3-4).

1. The name Jezreel - "God will disperse. This seems to intimate that a dispersion or sowing of Israel shall take place; which happened under Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, 2Ki 17:5, 6" (Clarke)
2. But the word refers also to the name of a city, where Jehu slew Jezebel and all the children of Ahab. 2Ki 9:10, 36; 10:6. (Clarke)
3. God's deliverance is not by your own power.

God would scatter Israel - the northern 10 tribes, like a farmer of that day would scatter seeds upon the ground. You would find these seeds broadcast through out the area and would not want them next to each other, and growing up together.

Assyria captured Israel, and began deporting its people in 722 B.C. E. They have never regained their national identity sense that time.

Jehu had carried out God's decree for the destruction of the family of Ahab. Now Jehu and his family were being removed.

The churches of today are not strong because they have neglected the teaching of God's word. They have substituted the word with messages that feel good. Many churches do not have the gospel as their focus. The message is watered down, made softer, cleaned up for political correctness. Many churches as a result have compromised the message. The people in those churches living in this modern society are affected by the sin that surrounds them. Like Lot who barely escaped the destruction of Sodom we are affected by the world in which we live. Our response should be prayer and lamentation for our country, our churches and our condition.

The people of Israel were scattered -- having rejected God as their Lord, they were rejected by God. They were scattered among the nations losing their national identity. We should be wary, we should be careful. The warnings in Revelation to the seven churches of Asia minor might be our fate. We do not want God to remove our candlestick, our church, our refuge from the world. We do not want to face the world alone, we are called to community, we are not called as lone wolves on the prairie. We are called as a group, called to fellowship we don't want to be scattered like grain on the ground.

Deliverance from this evil age is only through God. We can't do it on our own. We must do it with God's power. God was going to break the military power of Israel because of their failures. We can not, we must not depend on governmental power, political power, for our deliverance from the world and its ideas. We can not legislate morality upon those who don't want to live that way. The only way to deliverance from the enemy is the power of God.

Israel at this point was destined for defeat.

C. No Mercy -- Punishment 2 -- for the sin of Idolatry (6-7)

6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And *God* said unto him, Call her name Lo-ruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

1. The name Lo-ruhamah is a compound word -- The first portion of the name is the Hebrew for no or not. The second part is the word for mercy or compassion.

God refuses to show Israel more mercy. This is a great penalty for Idolatry and spiritual whoredom. It is only through the mercy of God that we do not receive the things we deserve for our sins.

God is telling Israel I am going to take a "hands off" approach. What you have sown so shall you reap. You will pay the full penalty for your crimes of idolatry.

Now modern society has turned the idea of "no mercy" into a entertainment medium. The term "no mercy" as turned into bumper stickers refers into WWE wrestling event. God's naming of the child "no mercy" speaks to a more serious event. God turned back his mercy and grace from a nation that was once His people.

Now they had chosen their own path and as a result God was letting them have the natural results of their crime -- not stopping the wrath that was sure to follow.

We need to pray that God will not remove His mercy from us individually nor from His churches. We are without hope for survival without Him, and His mercy. We need to cry out for God's leniency in our lives.

2. God's mercy is not by your own power.

In the previous section we learned that Israel was not to be delivered by their own power. Judah however was destined to

continue. Judah however was not to be delivered by their military power, God did not save them through the bow, the horses, or the horsemen. They were saved by the power of God through his characteristic of being a merciful God. That is the only way we can be saved. We can not, and are not capable of providing our own salvation because our salvation dependent on God's mercy.

D. Not my people -- 3rd punishment for the sin of idolatry and spiritual "whoredom"

8 Now when she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son. 9 Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

1. The name Lo-ammi contains the Hebrew word for no or not like Lo-ruhamah in the section before. This time after the prefix lo the name is made up of the word for people. To this is added the possessive pronoun suffix "my"

God had now rejected them. in Lev. 26:12 after telling them that His tabernacle would be among them, God says: " 12 And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. 13 I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright."(Lev 26:12-13 KJV). Now because they had their own "sanctuary" in which other gods were worshipped, and because they had rejected Him as their God, God removes His presence from them.

They still had religious expression, they still had worship, they still had a priesthood, but now their worship did not include the worship of the God that had delivered them from Israel.

In Matthew 7 Christ speaks of people who had "worship" but non-valid worship. Worship tied to their own expressions of righteousness. Religious expression carried out in their own terms but without God in their midst. He says in verse 21-23: "21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I

profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Worship and religion for worship and religions sake are worthless. These people were not God’s people. We should pray that our worship or expression of religious belief’s are not empty nor without the proper object and focus of belief. This passage speaks to the utterly deplorable condition Israel found itself in, with regard to their standing in the face of God.

E. The promise for ultimate redemption (10-11)

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.

11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

1. God is Eternal and He does not change.

God had always promised the ultimate redemption of the people of Israel. God because of His nature is not limited by time and space. God also has never changed His nature, He is now and always will be merciful, kind, just, and good. God here in Hosea has just tried convicted and punished Israel for their crimes. God however will still make sure that His promise is secure, His promise is not limited to a particular time. He is righteous and His righteousness demands fidelity to His promises

2. Israel will be as the sand of the sea -- This is the promise He had given to Abraham in Gen. 22:17; and repeated to Jacob in Gen. 32:12. God Has not forgotten or set aside His promise. Here even though He is promising punishment, He returns to His promise. He is not vindictive. His purpose in punishing is to turn Israel back to Him. He will redeem them as they return to Him.
3. Israel and Judah will once again be His people. This promise is found in verses 10-11. They were rejected because of their rejection, they will be returned to favor when they return to Him. The Bible discusses this attribute of God as forgiving and merciful on a more personal level in the parable of the prodigal son found

in Luke 15:11-32. While not directly applicable to Israel in context of the parable it speaks to a principle. If you return to God no matter how far you have strayed God is faithful, merciful, grace and kind, and you will not be turned away.

4. The time of this redemption is signaled in the phrase "day of Jezreel" which is a reference here to the "day of the Lord" when Christ will return and gather Israel once again.

We see that God has grace and mercy - if we turn from our wicked ways, if we leave behind the pig pen of society, God will return His blessing, restore His mercy. God is eternally the same, good and just.

III. Conclusion

Today we have looked at the deplorable state of Israel at the time of Hosea. They had left God behind, they had rejected Him, they had turned to the worship of the people around them. They had caused themselves to be classified with the "whoredoms" of idolatry.

We can not change our current cultural condition ourselves, we can only pray and lament the we, we ourselves have been caught up in the popular worship of the day, not found in Scripture, but found in the false religious ideas around us. We can pray for a return. We can hope that God will not paint us with the brush of non-belief, by returning to God.

We can have God's love and mercy despite of our past, and our past compromises with the world and its ways. If we return. God by His very nature is forgiving and merciful. Return to Him today and do not suffer the fate of Israel.

Title: The "Whoredoms" of Idolatry