

## **Foundation of the sermon**

### ***Purpose***

Show the correct attitude of the repentant.

### ***Principle Idea:***

Like Israel, we have all gone astray. We must return to God.

### ***Type of Outline***

Textual based on Hosea 3, especially verse 5

## **I. Introduction**

Let's look at this week's passage.

1 Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

2 So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley:

3 And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee.

4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.

God continues the comparison of Israel to the harlot, Gomer. Israel as a people will continue to exist after the captivity in isolation for many years. They will have a national time out.

The focus on this passage is verse 5. This punishment will happen, but afterward, things will change.

Today, we will focus on this period, the period after the punishment. We will focus on verse 5. In it, I find several characteristics of the repentant sinner. The sinner must return to God, seek the Lord, and fear the Lord.

## **II. Body**

### **A. Israel will return. (5a)**

It is not only that Israel will return to the land of promise, but their return is spiritual. This return causes them to seek the LORD and His purposes.

The Hebrew word for return is very common in the OT. It is found in some 956 verses and is found 1075 times. It means to return, turn around, turn back.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.  
(Isa. 53:6 KJV)

Israel as a nation has strayed very far from God. It must retrace its steps. It has been lost for a long period of time. It must change its direction. In the wilderness, the people of Israel must discover where they have gone wrong. They can't stay where they are. The only direction that offers hope for the future is to return to God.

#### **1. How they will return: Malachi 3:7-8**

From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye say: 'Wherein shall we return?' 8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye rob Me. But ye say: 'Wherein have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and heave-offerings. (Mal 3:7 JPS)

In Malachi, the return to the LORD represents their giving at the house of the LORD. This is to put your money where your mouth is. The fact is, when the people of the LORD don't give money, when they don't sacrifice for the LORD, they are not following God's will. One of the areas Israel is chastised for is for their lack of following the ordinances of God in the area of stewardship.

### **B. Israel will seek the LORD, and David their King (5b,c)**

Just turning around, and coming back to the LORD doesn't complete the process. The next two items speak to the further steps in Israel's coming back to the LORD.

### **1. Seek God (5b)**

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: (Isa 55:6 KJV)

Acts 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (Act 17:27 KJV)

### **2. Seek their King David (5c)**

Revelation 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. (Rev 17:14 KJV)

Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;  
(Rom 1:3 KJV)

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:1 KJV)

## **C. Israel will Fear the LORD and His goodness (5d,e)**

### **1. Fear the Lord (5d)**

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro 1:7 KJV)

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.  
(Pro 9:10 KJV)

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.  
(Act 9:31 KJV)

## **2. Fear of Goodness**

Jeremiah 33:9 And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it. (Jer 33:9 KJV)

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.  
(Isa 6:5 KJV)

### **III. Application**

1. We have all strayed from God. Some of us may still be far from God. There may be some areas of our lives that we are way out of harmony with God. We must return.
2. The one who has returned to God, must not seek to define their own way. They must seek the LORD. If you seek Him with a repentant attitude, you will find Him. He is our King and our LORD.
3. If you lack knowledge, if you are lacking in understanding, the only source of knowledge is the LORD.

### **IV. Conclusion**

Periods of straying from God will happen. The way to renewal is to return. We must not come "Just as I am;" we must come with a new attitude -- one that seeks God and recognizes Him for who He is. One must stand in awe of His power and goodness.

Title: Israel Will Seek Her King