

Foundation of the sermon

Purpose

To show how God is faithful, even when we are not.

Principle Idea:

God is faithful and consistent in all His actions. His ultimate purpose is our redemption.

Type of Outline

Exposition based on Hosea 6:1-11

I. Introduction

In the passages we will look at today, there is a contrast. The prophet contrasts God's faithfulness with Israel's unfaithfulness. In verses 1-3, the prophet continues the theme set down in the previous chapter. At the end of the last chapter, God had, like a lion, torn Israel and Judah. In verses 1-3, it shows that God will bind their wounds and heal them because He is faithful. In verses 4-11, the prophet continues his condemnation of Israel and Judah by showing how they are unfaithful to God. Yet, in the midst of these passages, God shows how He is faithful and consistent in His actions towards them.

The passage today is Hosea 6:1-11

1 Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.

3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

4 ¶O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

5 Therefore have I hewed them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth: and thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth.

6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

8 Gilead is a city of them that work iniquity, and is polluted with blood.

9 And as troops of robbers wait for a man, so the company of priests murder in the way by consent: for they commit lewdness.

10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.

11 Also, O Judah, he hath set an harvest for thee, when I returned the captivity of my people.

II. Body

A. The healing of Israel and Judah predicted (1-3)

1. Israel and Judah repents of sin. (1)
2. God heals Israel and Judah (2)
3. Israel and Judah become faithful, and God continues His faithfulness. (3)

B. The unfaithfulness of Israel and Judah vs. the desire of God for faithfulness (4-7)

1. Israel and Judah are like morning clouds. (4)
 - a) Morning clouds hold promise, but no rain.
 - (1) (Not just in Judah and Israel, but in the church) See 2 Peter 2 -- speaking of the false prophets that came into the church -- they are called clouds without water (esp. 17)
 - (2) (Not just in Judah and Israel, but in the church) See Jude 1 which speaks of some who had crept into the church whom he calls filthy dreamers (8) they speak evil of things they know not (10) and are called clouds without water, trees without fruit (12).
 - b) Early dew looks like it waters, but it quickly dries.
2. The unfaithfulness of Israel results in action by God (5 & 6).
 - a) God hews Israel like a stone cutter (5a)
 - (1) Example of a quarry.

- (2) Example of Don at Wisconsin church. He cut limestone by hand with an ax.
 - (3) God sometimes hews us as stones.
- b) God kills them with His Word (5b)
- (1) Sometimes God's words hurt -- Hebrews 4:12
 - (2) Roberta Flack song -- not a great example because of the rest of the words, but I thought of the chorus which says:

**Strumming my pain with his fingers,
Singing my life with his words,
Killing me softly with his song,
Killing me softly with his song,
Telling my whole life with his words,
Killing me softly with his song.**

3. God's desire mercy and God-centered knowledge (6)
- a) Not the yearly sacrifices in which they renewed their covenants with Him (-- mercy) (6a)
 - b) Nor the whole-burnt offering -- which is a picture of the smoke rising to God as a savory smell -- giving satisfaction to God. (--knowledge) (6c)
 - c) This passage is similar to a passage from the pen of David in Psalm 51:16 and 17 and is quoted in Matt 9:13, 12:7.
4. Israel is unfaithful in contrast to God's desire (7)
- a) They were bypassing God's covenant (transgressing) (7a)
 - b) They acted treacherously against God (despised LXX) (7b)

C. The defiled nature of Israel and Judah (8-11)

1. They and their priests are like highway men on the roads of Israel. (8,9)
- a) They lie in wait and murder.
 - b) They do this by their acts of harlotry.
 - c) Highwayman song: (only part of first verse)

I was a highwayman. Along the coach roads I did ride
With sword and pistol by my side

Many a young maid lost her baubles to my trade
Many a soldier shed his lifeblood on my blade ...

2. Their spiritual and physical harlotry has defiled both Israel and Judah (10-11)
 - a) Harlotry has defiled Israel ceremonially. (10)
 - b) Judah has sown sin and will reap its harvest (11)

III. Conclusion

God is faithful. Even during times when we are not, He is faithful. He is consistent in the way He treats us. There are sometimes areas of our lives that are out of harmony with God and His ways. It might be that our worship has fallen into a pattern of meaningless ritual carried out so that we can say we have done God's will. Yet what God wants is mercy and sacrifice.

When we look at the New Testament passages that quote the verses out of this passage, we find that some had snuck into the church trying to change it. In some cases, they are trying to turn our liberty into license, and at other times they are trying to seek out our liberty and destroy it. Either way, it is spiritual harlotry.

We have a depraved nature and God must occasionally hew off the rough edges so that we are proper stones for God's building. The Word of God, when used in this manner by God, is a sharp two-edged sword. It hurts to receive God's correction.

Whether God responds with correction or healing and restoration, He is doing what we need in our lives. God is faithful and consistent in all His actions. His ultimate purpose is our redemption.

Title: Hewn Stones.