

Foundation of the sermon

Purpose

To show that not all forms of worship are from God.

Principle Idea:

Blasphemous religion is not God's way. Worship of worship's sake is not valid.

Type of Outline

Exposition based on Hosea 9:1-9

I. Introduction

Have you ever received a gift that was unmarked as to the source. You are sure that this particular person gave it to you. You are happy and give them praise, only to find out later that the present was from a different source Perhaps someone you had not treated so well.

I remember going to a celebration at someone's house one time for a celebration of sorts. The person holding the party had really put a well organized meal and program. Several days latter the host called me and asked whether or not I had left some money in his refrigerator to help pay the costs of the even as a gift. I had not. The host was sure I had. Now he was a former police officer and he was proud of his ability to investigate situations and determine what was going on. This time however he was wrong. He wanted to give me praise for something I had not done. He was not giving the praise at that moment to the one who deserved it.

According to the Oxford dictionary blasphemy is: "behaviour or language that insults or shows a lack of respect for God or religion." In years past I have seen a definition that is similar, blasphemy can be giving some respect who doesn't deserve it while not giving it to someone who does. Or it can mean not giving someone respect by insulting them. Of course the someone in this definition is most often God.

In today's passage this is what Israel has done to God.

The passage today is Hosea 9:1-9

1 Rejoice not, O Israel, for joy, as other people: for thou hast gone a whoring from thy God, thou hast loved a reward upon every cornfloor.

2 The floor and the winepress shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail in her.

3 They shall not dwell in the LORD'S land; but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean things in Assyria.

4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.

5 What will ye do in the solemn day, and in the day of the feast of the LORD?

6 For, lo, they are gone because of destruction: Egypt shall gather them up, Memphis shall bury them: the pleasant places for their silver, nettles shall possess them: thorns shall be in their tabernacles.

7 The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

8 The watchman of Ephraim was with my God: but the prophet is a snare of a fowler in all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God.

9 They have deeply corrupted themselves, as in the days of Gibeah: therefore he will remember their iniquity, he will visit their sins.

II. Body

A. Blasphemy holds a party

1. Don't claim that the good you have is not from God. (Hosea 9:1)

- a) Israel was giving credit for their blessings to other gods while rejoicing at their festival times (1a,b)
- b) The time when they should be honoring God, they were worshiping other gods. (1c,d)

2. The penalty for blasphemy (8:1-14) [8 reasons]

- a) The product of the vineyard was one of the blessings they received from God. It was part of their worship at the festival

times. Now they would no longer have the blessing of the vineyard. (2)

- b) The land which God had given them would be taken away. They would return to a similar captivity to that they had been taken from in Egypt. They would have no land, which produced the blessings, that they celebrated at the festivals. (3)
- c) They had defiled themselves for worship by honoring false gods, now they would be defiled in all manner of life. Their food would be the defiled food of the nations and the gods of the nations who held them in captivity. (3)
- d) Because of false worship the remnants of true worship would be removed. (4)
- e) God asks them now that they have no blessings, and no true worship to think about what they have lost, and mourn rather than rejoice during the festivals of rejoicing. (5)

B. The blasphemous nation is destroyed.

1. Destruction and captivity are coming.

- a) Destruction and return to captivity one like the one in Egypt will be the ultimate result of their blasphemy. (6)
- b) Israel gets its come-up-ence. (7)

2. Dwelling place and worship become a nightmare.

- a) Their dwelling places will become like living in a field of nettles. (6)
- b) Spiritual leaders will become like mad men, and will prophesy because of their hatred for God. (7)

C. The prophets of hatred.

- 1. Their authority is used as a snare.**
- 2. Their prophecy is based in their hatred for God and His ways.**
- 3. Their prophecy is based in their corruption.**

III. Conclusion

In today's world it is not politically correct to label as blasphemy false worship. Oh in today's world we are taught to tolerate, and advocate all forms of worship. We are asked to agree and acknowledge that all roads lead to God. We are encouraged to be culturally sensitive and incorporate the societies view of sin into our worship.

This is just what Israel did that cost them their nation, and their place with God.

Title: Blasphemous worship