

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Hosea: Healed by Love

### Message 6: Real Repentance

#### Hosea 6:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. <sup>2</sup>After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. <sup>3</sup>Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

#### True Repentance – what’s missing?

Any reference to \_\_\_\_\_

The Israelites acknowledged the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of sin, but not the sin itself! Unless we honestly grapple with sin, there can be no true repentance!

#### Luke 18:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Any sense of \_\_\_\_\_ with God

There were guilty of the sin of \_\_\_\_\_, assuming that God (as predictably as the sun coming up) would do as He has always done with their sin – forgive it!

In so doing, they \_\_\_\_\_ God. He became more like a ‘formula’ to them ...

They also rendered the biblical terms “return” and “acknowledge” meaningless!

How should we define sin?

How do we (often) define sin?

#### Hosea 7:14 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup>They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

## The sin remains ...

### Hosea 6:4-7 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. <sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. <sup>7</sup> But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

They didn't truly \_\_\_\_\_ . (Not in any genuine, lasting way)

They didn't really \_\_\_\_\_ . (Even though they knew things *about* God)

They substituted \_\_\_\_\_ for genuine \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Amos 5:21-24 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

### Isaiah 1:11-17 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

<sup>12</sup> "When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? <sup>13</sup> Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. <sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. <sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

### Psalms 51:16-17 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Finally, they were \_\_\_\_\_ to God (the most serious accusation of all)

## 4 images (Hosea 7) of the unrepentant

### Hosea 7:1-3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria; for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside. <sup>2</sup> But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face. <sup>3</sup> By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

They were like “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**Hosea 7:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> *They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.*

This metaphor speaks to their gross and inflamed lusts and resulting sins. The picture is that of a fire burning out of control. Their adulteries were both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

They were like “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**Hosea 7:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> *Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.*

This metaphor suggests that Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

(And the tragedy here is that they seemed to be completely \_\_\_\_\_ of their true condition!)

**Hosea 7:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> *Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.*

They were like “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**Hosea 7:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> *Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.*

Normally the metaphor of a dove would be positive e.g. “peace”), but in this case it conveys their weakness and stupidity and the fact that they were so easily deceived.

Finally, they were like a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

**Hosea 7:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> *They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.*

Not only were they useless in God’s hands, their lives were now a danger to others.

**The only solution: Real Repentance**

Next week:

*Reaping the Whirlwind*