

Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

Hosea: Healed by Love

Message 8: The God Who *Isn't* There

Hosea 9:12b (ESV)

¹² Woe to them when I depart from them!

From last week:

Hosea 8:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ For Israel has forgotten his Maker and built palaces, and Judah has multiplied fortified cities; so I will send a fire upon his cities, and it shall devour her strongholds.

1 generation later ...

2 Kings 18:13 (ESV)

¹³ In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them.

45 of 46 of them were lost ... only Jerusalem remained:

2 Kings 19:20 (ESV)

²⁰ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Your prayer to me about Sennacherib king of Assyria I have heard.

From Joy to Mourning

The following verses likely represent an unexpected sermon by Hosea to the people on the occasion of the Feast of _____ (or *Sukkoth*). There, the people would have been celebrating the conclusion of the harvest with feasting and dancing.

Hosea 9:1-6 (ESV)

¹ Rejoice not, O Israel! Exult not like the peoples; for you have played the whore, forsaking your God. You have loved a prostitute's wages on all threshing floors. ² Threshing floor and wine vat shall not feed them, and the new wine shall fail them. ³ They shall not remain in the land of the LORD, but Ephraim shall return to Egypt, and they shall eat unclean food in Assyria. ⁴ They shall not pour drink offerings of wine to the LORD, and their sacrifices shall not please him. It shall be like mourners' bread to them; all who eat of it shall be defiled; for their bread shall be for their hunger only; it shall not come to the house of the LORD. ⁵ What will you do on the day of the appointed festival, and on the day of the feast of the LORD? ⁶ For behold, they are going away from destruction; but Egypt shall gather them; Memphis shall bury them. Nettles shall possess their precious things of silver; thorns shall be in their tents.

Why did the people rejoice?

Why were they instructed *not* to?

John 8:48 (ESV)

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

And Jesus said the same would be true of us – if we _____!

Matthew 5:11-12 (ESV)

¹¹ "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

But the role of the prophet is as a "_____".

This means (at least) ...

Someone who is ever _____ (particularly to attack)

Someone who is willing to _____ a clear alarm

Someone who _____ for the people entrusted to him

Someone who is _____ to the voice of God.

***Gibeah** – an awful object lesson on human depravity and God’s overwhelming response to sin (Judges 19-21)

God’s response:

Hosea 9:10-14 (ESV)

¹⁰ Like grapes in the wilderness, I found Israel. Like the first fruit on the fig tree in its first season, I saw your fathers. But they came to Baal-peor and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame, and became detestable like the thing they loved. ¹¹ Ephraim’s glory shall fly away like a bird— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception! ¹² Even if they bring up children, I will bereave them till none is left. Woe to them when I depart from them! ¹³ Ephraim, as I have seen, was like a young palm planted in a meadow; but Ephraim must lead his children out to slaughter. ¹⁴ Give them, O LORD— what will you give? Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

***Baal-peor** – an awful object lesson on the physical and spiritual nature of sin (Numbers 25)

Lessons:

What we give ourselves to, we _____ like.

Sin has _____ and _____ consequences.

When sin takes hold, the first thing lost is "_____". We can best understand this as ...

Hosea’s amazing prayer for _____: "Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts."