

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Hosea: Healed by Love

### Message 9: The Big Lessons from Hosea

\_\_\_\_\_ breaks \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Hosea 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD.”

#### **Hosea 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>“Plead with your mother, plead— for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband— that she put away her whoring from her face, and her adultery from between her breasts;

#### **Hosea 4:12b (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> ... a spirit of whoredom has led them astray, and they have left their God to play the whore.

#### **Hosea 9:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>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.

Few things in life are more painful than being betrayed by someone you love. Unfaithfulness brings darkness, brokenness, and pain into something that was supposed to be a safe, secure foundation. Being unfaithful wrecks relationships, and it breaks God’s heart.

**True covenant love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

In Hosea, the problem in Israel was that people were claiming to have a relationship with God, and felt entitled to His blessing, but in reality were serving other masters. Declining to follow God’s rules and rejecting exclusivity in a relationship with Him may feel like freedom, but in actuality all you get is chaos, heartbreak, and devastation.

#### **Hosea 5:4-7 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD. <sup>5</sup>The pride of Israel testifies to his face; Israel and Ephraim shall stumble in his guilt; Judah also shall stumble with them. <sup>6</sup>With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the LORD, but they will not find him; he has withdrawn from them. <sup>7</sup>They have dealt faithlessly with the LORD; for they have borne alien children. Now the new moon shall devour them with their fields.

#### **Hosea 7:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup>Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. <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.

#### **Hosea 10:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field.

**God's love is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Hosea tells us three characteristics of God's powerful love:

**God's love is \_\_\_\_\_:**

**Hosea 8:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads; it shall yield no flour; if it were to yield, strangers would devour it.

**Hosea 10:13a (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies.

**God's love is \_\_\_\_\_:**

"Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites." Hosea 3:1

**Hosea 2:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her.

**Hosea 3:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."

**Hosea 14:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them.

**God's love is \_\_\_\_\_:**

**Hosea 11:1-9 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. <sup>2</sup> The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. <sup>3</sup> Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. <sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. <sup>5</sup> They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. <sup>6</sup> The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels. <sup>7</sup> My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. <sup>8</sup> How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. <sup>9</sup> I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

**God loves you more than you know – \_\_\_\_\_.**

This is the main message of Hosea. We may be lost. We may be twisted, but Jesus was twisted on the cross so that we could be forgiven. God loves you more than you know, and now is the time to come home to Him.

**Hosea 6:1 (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.

**Hosea 14:1-7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. <sup>2</sup>Take with you words and return to the LORD; say to him, “Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. <sup>3</sup>Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” <sup>4</sup>I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. <sup>5</sup>I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; <sup>6</sup>his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. <sup>7</sup>They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.