

“The Unfaithful Bride” - Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5

Ask - “How can unfaithfulness affect a relationship?”

Background - Hosea was a prophet to Israel for approximately 60 years from 785-725 BC. He lived and ministered at the same time as Isaiah. Hosea is the first of the “minor prophets” in the Bible. He prophesied of the coming fall of Israel, which took place a few years after his death.

“Hosea’s Marriage” - Hosea 1:2-5

(v2) What 2 things did the LORD instruct Hosea to do? Why did God tell him to do this?

(v3) Did Hosea obey the LORD? Who did he marry?

(v4-5) What did Hosea name his firstborn child, a son? What did the name represent or foreshadow?

GOD INSTRUCTED HOSEA TO MARRY A HARLOT AND HAVE CHILDREN WITH HER AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD’S RELATIONSHIP WITH UNFAITHFUL ISRAEL.

“Hosea’s Children” - Hosea 1:6-9

(v6) What did Hosea name his second born child, a daughter? What did her name mean or communicate?

(v7) Who would the LORD continue to have compassion on? How would he deliver them from harm?

(v8-9) What did Hosea name his thief born child, another son? What does his name mean?

HOSEA HAD 3 CHILDREN WITH GOMER. EACH OF THEIR NAMES COMMUNICATED A PROPHETIC MESSAGE.

“Hosea’s Faithfulness” - Hosea 3:1-5

(v1-2) After Gomer had abandoned him for another, what did God tell Hosea to do? Did he obey and if so, how? What did this represent?

(v3) What did Hosea ask of and promise to Gomer after getting her back?

(v4-5) What prophetic statements are made pertaining to Israel in these verses?

How were Hosea's actions an object lesson of this prophecy?

THOUGH SHE LEFT HIM FOR ANOTHER, HOSEA STILL LOVED GOMER AND PAID TO REDEEM HER. SO ALSO, THE LORD LOVES ADULTEROUS ISRAEL AND WILL RESTORE HER IN THE LAST DAYS.

Application - Hosea not only proclaimed God's message, but was obedient to the point of demonstrating God's message with his life. Imagine for a moment how difficult it would be to knowingly marry a promiscuous and adulterous spouse, and to have a family with them. Would you do it? What about today's lesson speaks most to you?