

Hosea: The Uniqueness of God's Leadership

What is the _____ thing God has asked you to do? Has He ever asked you to move to another city, relocate to another country, leave a high-paying job, give a sacrificial gift, or surrender to the call of vocational ministry? What would you do if God led you to marry a person, knowing that he or she would be _____?

"Old Testament prophets didn't live easy lives by any measure. They were ridiculed, opposed, threatened, bullied, persecuted, and not infrequently killed. Death, however, might have been an easier fate than that to which God called the prophet Hosea: remain faithful to your unfaithful wife. Hosea's enduring marriage to a prostitute isn't only a beautiful human love story, but also perhaps the most vivid and disarming picture of God's unrelenting love within the Bible."

Hosea 1:2-3 – *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." So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.*

God _____ Hosea to find a wife (and her name was Gomer!), and He told him upfront that she'd be unfaithful to him. How many of us would hit the pause button at that point and say, "God, You've got to be kidding." God called _____ to leave the familiar and travel to the unknown (Gen. 12:1); God called _____ to build an ark (Gen. 6:14-16); and God called _____ to marry an unfaithful woman. How did Abraham respond? He obeyed! How did Noah respond? He obeyed! How did Hosea respond? He obeyed! How do you and I respond when God's leadership is _____ and defies the _____?

"The book of Hosea is a _____ – real, tragic, and true." It reveals how deep, wide, high, and long is God's love for His people (Eph. 3:18-19). God loves you and me!

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5:8 – *But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 8:38-39 – *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 John 4:19 – *We love because he first loved us.*

Is God _____? Does He break _____? Are His words _____? Hosea's relationship to Gomer is a picture of God's relationship with Israel. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea; Israel was unfaithful to God. Spiritual adultery is real!

Hosea 3:1 – *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 9:1 – *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.*

The book of Hosea is about _____, _____, _____, and _____. The name Hosea means “_____.”

- Hosea married Gomer; children were born; and each child was given a name signifying a divine message (Chapter 1).
- Gomer left Hosea to pursue other relationships (Chapter 2).
- Hosea looked for Gomer; he found her; he redeemed her; and he brought her home again (Chapter 3).
- God revealed His displeasure against the people of Israel and how their unrepentant sins would destroy them (Chapters 4; 6; 7; and 12).
- God declared that sin doesn’t go unnoticed or unpunished (Chapters 5; 8; 9; 10; 12; and 13).
- Even as Israel sinned and lived rebellious, God showed them His mercy and love (Chapter 11).
- The people of Israel realized that repentance was possible and that God wanted to love them, not harm them (Chapter 14).

God continually seeks to _____, _____, and _____ His people.

Hosea 6:1-2 – *“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. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.”*

The book of Hosea calls you and me to _____ our relationship/walk with God.

- Are we _____ to the Lord’s voice?
- Are we _____ to the Lord’s direction?
- Are we _____ to obey God when His leadership doesn’t make sense?
- Do we grieve when we see _____ in our lives or in the lives of other people?
- Do we _____ the magnitude of God’s love?
- Do we grasp the _____ of sin?
- Do we understand the pain of _____ adultery?
- Are we quick to _____ and _____ strained relationships?

Galatians 6:7-8 – *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

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What is the **strangest** thing God has asked you to do? Has He ever asked you to move to another city, relocate to another country, leave a high-paying job, give a sacrificial gift, or surrender to the call of vocational ministry? What would you do if God led you to marry a person, knowing that he or she would be **unfaithful**?

"Old Testament prophets didn't live easy lives by any measure. They were ridiculed, opposed, threatened, bullied, persecuted, and not infrequently killed. Death, however, might have been an easier fate than that to which God called the prophet Hosea: remain faithful to your unfaithful wife. Hosea's enduring marriage to a prostitute isn't only a beautiful human love story, but also perhaps the most vivid and disarming picture of God's unrelenting love within the Bible."

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"The book of Hosea is a **love story** – real, tragic, and true." It reveals how deep, wide, high, and long is God's love for His people (Eph. 3:18-19). God loves you and me!

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5:8 – *But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

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1 John 4:19 – *We love because he first loved us.*

Is God **unfaithful**? Does He break **promises**? Are His words **inconsistent**? Hosea's relationship to Gomer is a picture of God's relationship with Israel. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea; Israel was unfaithful to God. Spiritual adultery is real!

Hosea 3:1 – *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 9:1 – *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.*

The book of Hosea is about **redemption, rejection, repentance, and restoration**. The name Hosea means “**salvation**.”

- Hosea married Gomer; children were born; and each child was given a name signifying a divine message (Chapter 1).
- Gomer left Hosea to pursue other relationships (Chapter 2).
- Hosea looked for Gomer; he found her; he redeemed her; and he brought her home again (Chapter 3).
- God revealed His displeasure against the people of Israel and how their unrepentant sins would destroy them (Chapters 4; 6; 7; and 12).
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- Even as Israel sinned and lived rebellious, God showed them His mercy and love (Chapter 11).
- The people of Israel realized that repentance was possible, and that God wanted to love them, not harm them (Chapter 14).

God continually seeks to **reconcile, revive, and restore** His people.

Hosea 6:1-2 – *“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. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.*

The book of Hosea calls you and me to **evaluate** our relationship and walk with God.

- Are we **listening** to the Lord's voice?
- Are we **surrendered** to the Lord's direction?
- Are we **available** to obey God when His leadership doesn't make sense?
- Do we grieve when we see **unfaithfulness** in our lives or in the lives of other people?
- Do we **comprehend** the magnitude of God's love?
- Do we grasp the **seriousness** of sin?
- Do we understand the pain of **spiritual** adultery?
- Are we quick to **forgive** and **reconcile** strained relationships?

Galatians 6:7-8 – *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*