

SINS THAT BREAK GOD'S HEART

Text: Hosea 3 #1

Intro: story - relating of to Israel
teaches two things
1 - nature of sin - adultery
2 - true meaning of love = agony

INTRODUCTION: The Bible never shuns realism when it would expose the exceeding hatefulness of sin or magnify the power of God's redeeming love.

① The story: Hosea married Gomer, who bore him three children-- then Gomer played him false and she left him for a life of infidelity. After a while when she had descended to the uttermost depths of degradation, having become merely a slave, the property of someone else, Hosea sought her out in her destitution, brought her at half the price of a slave and restored her to his side as his bride.

② The first part of this story is tragic, but not uncommon. The second part is by no means common, and is absolutely amazing. With the first part we are familiar; it is tragic and heart-breaking, but not uncommon. But the story of the husband seeking his wife when she had fallen to this depth is very uncommon.

③ It is all a picture of God and His people. The infidelity of Gomer interpreted to Hosea the infidelity of Israel. The Church is the bride of Christ. Hosea gives us God's conception of sin in the lives of his people.

④ God's conception of sin in His people may be written in one phrase: unchastity in the marriage relation, just as men consider unfaithfulness on the part of a wife. The prophet insists that the relation of husband and wife, and so of God and His people shall be one of mutual love and faithfulness. Any violation of the covenant relationship is unchastity. Any sin and all sin in God's people is viewed by God as spiritual adultery.

⑤ Nothing breaks the heart of a man as an unfaithful wife. Nothing breaks the heart of God as an unfaithful Christian. Hosea came to understand the heart of God, and what God suffered when His people sinned. The book pictures the heart-break of God. Sin wounds the heart of God. What are these sins that break God's heart--spiritual unchastity? The footsteps of evil are traced by the Divine eye.

What the Holy Spirit means: we're never truly understanding it at all - admit responsibility of offering.

Nature of Sin Harlot = left for material gain, not love. Spiritual adultery = no life piece of sin.

I. IT BREAKS GOD'S HEART WHEN HIS PEOPLE REJECT HIS WORD.

Hosea 8:12 - "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they are counted as a strange thing." *not neglect but reject.*

- 1. A stranger in Israel could have no voice. God's word is as the edict of an unacknowledge king--no weight or authority. *exiled King*
- 2. It is something which does not concern them.

will a bride not read her husband's letter?