

Thursday, March 7

Read Hosea 2:14-23. The tragic life of Hosea represents the relationship between God and God's people who were just an unfaithful in their relationship with the one true God of Israel. God called Hosea to a marriage that would be a living demonstration of God's relationship with his people, Israel. They needed to see a story that was outside of themselves so that they could see their own unfaithfulness in their idol worship. The hope is that they would recognize their own spiritual adultery and be moved to repentance.

As Nancy Guthrie wrote, "We're meant to ask, how could God put up with such repeated betrayal?" God is not the offending party in this drama; God is the offended by our unfaithfulness and inability to even recognize our unfaithfulness. Consider these thoughts and write your reflections here.

Friday, March 8

Read I John 4:6-11. While all of scripture points to the essential nature of God being love, these verses from I John encapsulates this quality of God. God's love is the foundation of all Creation: it is the reason in sending Jesus the Christ to the world and it is the core of continuing work of God in the world through the Holy Spirit. Pastor Jack explained that God is actually a community of love as the Trinity – Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Love must be expressed in tangible way or else, can we really call it love? What results can we expect from this essential nature of God? Grace? Compassion? Blessings? Asking for God's wisdom to guide you, write your thoughts here.

Message Notes – March 3, 2024

Jesus and the Prophets – *Hosea's Vision of Intimacy**

- I. I want to point out what I witnessed with you today as Em sang *I Don't Know How to Love Him*; perhaps the _____ from *Jesus Christ Superstar*.
 - A. Her facial expression was everything from admiration to _____, to confusion and _____.
 1. There is also a great sense of the frightening _____ of love.
 2. _____ plays a huge role in loving ourselves and others, a huge role in being in authentic, meaningful relationships.
 - B. *Jesus Christ Superstar* was in _____ and staged the following year.
 1. Forty-one years earlier a play called *The _____ of Hosea*, published in 1929.
 2. It carried the subtitle "A _____ Play."
- II. Prophets are called to be God's _____ in the world and throughout the Hebrew Scriptures.
 - A. The prophets are often very _____ in getting God's message across to God's people.
 - B. Hosea is instructed by God to basically marry a _____ and have children by her.
 - C. No one would expect that things are going to _____ for this marriage.
- III. The tragic life of Hosea represents the relationship between _____ and _____ who were just

*Hosea 2:14-23

an _____ in their relationship with the one true God of Israel.

- A. Nancy Guthrie writes, “Most of us are a bit offended on Hosea’s behalf when we read this request from God. We think, *How could God ask this of Hosea?* It seems _____.”
- B. She continues, “We’re meant to ask, how could _____ put up with such repeated betrayal?”
- IV. God’s essential nature is _____. I John 4:8 tells us, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is _____.”
- A. What we read this morning from Hosea’s prophecy is the _____ of a jilted husband wanting his wife back, even though she has been _____.
- B. The point is that marriage is the most _____ relationship that can be used to describe the relationship between God and God’s people.
- C. God doesn’t _____ us into anything; God woos us into a relationship based on _____ and _____.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, March 4

The Message began with some reflection on the song *I Don’t Know How to Love Him* from *Jesus Christ Superstar*. As mentioned in the introduction, this song sung by Mary Magdalene in the Rock Opera is full of conflicting thoughts and emotions. Mary is confused, loving but not feeling lovable and she is fearful and painfully aware of the power of love. What other emotions did you detect from the performance of the song? Why do you think Mary expressed such a wide range of emotions? If you didn’t hear the song before the message during worship, look up

the lyrics and perhaps even listen to the song on YouTube. Reflect on the questions asked and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, March 5

Read Hosea 1:1-3. Did you ever imagine that such a command from God exist in our Bible? What is your immediate reaction when reading these instructions from God to Hosea? Upon first hearing these words and reading them here for yourself, do you have any thought that Hosea and Gomer will have a successful marriage?

Have you ever known someone who was in a marriage in which one of the spouses was unfaithful? Perhaps you’ve experienced unfaithfulness in a relationship. Maybe you experienced a kind of unfaithfulness that was not of an adulterous type; perhaps in a school or work relationship. Do you think God is being cruel in asking Hosea to take a whore or prostitute as his wife? Consider the questions asked throughout today’s devotion and write your reflections here.

Wednesday, March 6

Take some time to read the first few verses of some Prophetic Books of the Hebrew Scriptures. Try the first 10 verse of Jeremiah or Micah, or the first few verses of Jonah, Obadiah, Zechariah and Haggai. You can get a sense of what God wants accomplished through the prophets’ oracles and pronouncements. Prophets are called to be God’s messengers in the world and throughout the Hebrew Scriptures; the prophets are often very dramatic in getting God’s message across to God’s people.

When comparing these various instructions from God to the prophets how do you feel about what God is asking of Hosea? Do you sense an injustice? Take some time to reflect on these questions and write your ideas here.