

Sunday Message Meditation

January 4, 2015

Text: *Hosea*

Message Mediation:

The book of Hosea reveals to us:

1. **The horrific unfaithfulness of God's people** (*exemplified by Gomer and illustrated throughout the book*).
2. **The immeasurable love of God for His people** (*exemplified by Hosea and communicated throughout the book*).
3. **The delight in receiving God's love; and the danger in rejecting God's love** (*revealed in the encouragements to repent and return to the Lord and the graphic warnings of persisting in waywardness and rebellion*).

Message Application:

1. The problem with the people of Hosea's day was their ignorance of the Lord and their lack of a loving relationship with Him as revealed in the sampling of verses below:
Hosea 4:1b: There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land.
Hosea 4:6a: My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Hosea 4:10b: Because they have forsaken the Lord to cherish whoredom, wine and new wine, which take away the understanding.
Hosea 4:16b: A people without understanding will come to ruin.
Hosea 5:4: 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.

The encouragement is for the people to repent, return and press on to know the Lord as revealed in the verses below:

Hosea 6:1-3 Come let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has stuck 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. Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

Hosea 10:12 Sow for yourself righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness on you.

Hosea 12:6 So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast to love and justice, and wait continually for your God.

Hosea 14:1-2a Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him, Take away all iniquity;

How would you describe the depth of intimacy that you presently enjoy with the Lord?

What might you practically do to "press on to know the Lord" in a deeper way this year?