

Your Love Never Fails, it Never Gives Up, it Never Runs Out on Me Hosea 2

The stage has been set in chapter 1:

- Hosea was told to take for himself a wife of whoredom!
- He marries Gomer and she gives birth to 3 children!
- The children's names mean – "To scatter", "No Mercy" & "Not My People"!
- All of this was intended to reveal to God's people their great whoredom
- Yet God still reaffirms His promises to Israel despite their infidelity!

Ch. 2 – Hosea's resolve to love his wayward bride gets put to the test!

- Gomer plays the whore and leaves Hosea to pursue other lovers!
- Hosea wrestles with the reality of it all & how he ought to respond!
- The kids are stuck in the middle & have to wrestle with whether the meaning of their names will be their reality or if God's promises will prevail!

Vs. 1 - Hosea tries to comfort his children by saying **"Say to your brothers, You are my people," and to your sisters, You have received mercy."**

In the midst of everything, Hosea still proclaims the promises of God!

Hosea then calls his children to be a voice of truth to their mother! **Vs. 2**

Hosea thought that if anyone could get through to Gomer, it may be her own children who literally bear the names of the consequences of her sin!

Remember the parallel here of what is happening and how it relates to God's relationship with His bride (His people)! **God's bride has rejected Him, & who does He send to declare that truth to her/them? The Son!**

Hosea also tells the children to reveal what the consequences of their mother's sin will look like, hoping she will see the error of her ways & repent! **Vs. 3-5a**

What does this reveal about God? That He is vengeful & will make His bride pay for what she has done... or that He is incredibly hurt by her betrayal?

Why did Gomer leave in the first place? **She loved other things more, other lovers & the material things she thought they could provide for her! Vs. 5b**

But all the while Hosea is the one that personifies love & the one who has provided all that Gomer needed for her life/happiness, but she didn't see it! He even continues to provide for her in this way while she plays the whore!

Vs. 8 reveals this incredible detail to the reality of Hosea's continual love and provision for Gomer even while she is living with another man!

If Gomer truly represents Israel in this story, why did Israel leave & forsake their God? **For the same reasons!** And isn't it true of us today, as well?

Unfortunately, Gomer chooses to stay in her sin, and so does Israel! So what will God decide to do in response to this continual rejection?

Hosea tells us what God will do? **Vs. 6-7** - **God will inhibit their success!**

- In the same way God will not let Gomer succeed in her adulteress ways!

If that doesn't bring her back, what else will God do? **Vs. 9-13**

He will remove His blessings & allow the natural consequences of her/their actions fall upon them, & maybe, just maybe they will come to their senses!

- It's the same way the father teaches the son in the prodigal son story!

God will allow us sometimes to find out how truly empty & incapable the things of this world are to truly satisfy us, and then remind us of what will – Himself!

In the same way God allowed Gomer to learn the hard way, to see where her protection/provision/joy truly came from, God will allow us to experience wilderness wandering times as well, to pursue lesser things, **until we see that all we have/need/should desire truly comes from God's loving hand!**

Both God, and Hosea (as a representation of God in the story) are not taking these courses of action as retaliation, but as the way to win back their bride!

How do we know this? Because God & Hosea will also do one more thing: **Vs. 14-15** - **Both God & Hosea intend to woo back their bride with love!**

And what does God declare will be the outcome of His wooing & pursuing love upon His bride? **Vs. 16-23** – **She will return and call him "My husband!"**

What an amazing love story! What an amazing display of the love of God that never fails, never gives up, & never runs out on His bride (His people)!

It's this reality, this kind of love and promise, that we also declare today through baptism! That *"no matter how far we may run from it, God's love will be that which tethers and draws our hearts back to Him again!"*

Have you experienced such love/promise in your life? **It's yours in Christ!**

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