

## Don't Just Sit There – Hosea 14

Today we wrap up the book of Hosea! So what do you think?

Has it measured up to the expectation of being the 2nd best story in the Bible?

Here are snapshots of the highlights from the last 9 weeks:

**Hosea 1** – Hosea takes for himself a wife of whoredom, bears children & names them “Jezreel” (Destruction), “No Mercy” & “Not my people.” All to point out to Israel their own infidelity in their relationship with God and to warn them of that which their sin will produce!

**Hosea 2** – Yet God still reaffirms His covenantal promises to Israel, and plans to woo back His bride with love, just as Hosea does with Gomer!

**Hosea 3** – To receive Gomer/Israel back, a price is required to be paid. Hosea pays the ransom, and so will God in “latter days” in Christ!

**Hosea 4** – God does more than just buy us back, He gives us a defense attorney in Jesus, who lived a life worthy of an “innocent” verdict!

**Hosea 6-7** – God still calls us to repent & believe – to change our mindset & our actions. We all have a part to play in this as well!

**Hosea 8** – Be a Jack O’ Lantern for God! Let Him carve away & put His light in you so that He can shine through you into all the world!

**Hosea 9** – How do we pray when we know God to be sovereign? When God acts contrary to our desires, will we trust Him?

**Hosea 11** – God brings punishment into our lives because He is a good, & because He loves us! He is a good, good Father!

**Hosea 12-13** – Hosea carries on with many of these same themes, but it all culminates in Ch. 14 w/one last plea for the people to return to God.

“Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.” –Vs. 1 They had brought this coming destruction upon themselves!

Hosea is saying, “Don’t just sit there & do nothing, - repent. Turn from your wicked & foolish ways & turn back to the Lord!” “Return!” It’s not too late!

How does one go about doing that? What does returning to the Lord look like?

“Take with you words and return to the Lord...” – Vs. 2

Words are important to God! Verbalizing our sin, confessing it to Him, and speaking words of commitment/recommitment to Him are essential!

1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful & just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Romans 10:9 – “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Hosea reveals the words that God will hear & receive from His people in Vs. 2-3.

“Take away all iniquity;” - We need to call sin what it is – iniquity! And then ask God to remove it from our lives!

“accept what is good,” – We need to acknowledge the only thing that is good & acceptable to God, and rely on Him alone!

“and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips.” – We need to provide some evidence to our words – A sacrifice of praise is a good start!

“Assyria shall not save us;” – We need to stop relying on other things/people!

“we will not ride on horses;” – We need to stop relying on ourselves!

“and we will say no more, ‘Our God,’ to the work of our hands.” – We need to stop relying on our self-made idols that cannot save!

“In you the orphan finds mercy.” – Our only hope is in a merciful God who adopts us as His beloved children through faith in Jesus Christ!

These words, this kind of prayer to God, is exactly what H.C. # 117 speaks of.

The words of Hosea 14, this kind of prayer, is what I lifted up to God in college in the first real song I ever wrote & performed publicly – “All of Me”!

These were my words/confession/prayer! What about you?

If you come before God in this way, you’ll find the realities of vs. 4-8 to be true!

Vs. 9 closes with - “Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, & the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.”

How will you respond to the message of Hosea & the invitation of God?

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