

Sermon Reflections

Hope in the Midst of Suffering (Hosea 1)

Summary: God will not let our rebellion go unchecked, but in Jesus, He provides a means for our spiritual restoration.

Themes in Hosea:

1. Unfaithfulness

- What patterns of sinful rebellion were present in Israel (individually and in leadership)? What did they fail to do? (Hosea 2:4-5, 4:1-2, 4:11-14, 5:1, 7:5-11, 12:7-8)
- Are we guilty of the same pattern(s) of unfaithfulness? What habits can you pursue to avoid the spiritual unfaithfulness found in Israel?

2. Certainty of Judgement

- Why was God so firm in His judgement against Israel? What institution did God use to illustrate the depth of Israel's unfaithfulness?
- For the married, how can you ensure that your marriage is picture of Jesus' love for His bride, the church?

3. A Call for Repentance

- What is God's remedy for Israel's (and our) unfaithfulness in Hosea? What does God require for repentance to be effective?
- What challenges do you face with being truly "repentant"? What excuses do you tend to give when your pride gets in the way of repentance? What steps can you take to stop those excuses?

4. Ultimate Restoration

- How does the name of the Prophet Hosea encourage you when you read the content that is filled with so much rebellion and judgement? What message of hope of restoration do we find in Hosea, despite Israel's faithfulness (1:10-2:1, 3:3-5)?
- As you consider your own sinful failings (maybe numerous and often like Israel), how does the hope of Hosea help your soul? Is there anything you've done that God cannot forgive in Jesus?
- Reflecting on what God has done in rescuing you through Christ, what should your life of worship and thankfulness look like, in light of His merciful restoration? What is one practical step that you can take this week to demonstrate your thankfulness through worshipful obedience?