

SERMON NOTES:

- The heart break for any mother or father is when their child runs away from them and indulges in sinful, rebellious practices. How much more does the heart of the Father break when His creation and even His children forget and forsake Him for the lies of the enemy?
- God proclaims His desire for His people and fulfills His promises, yet they turn away to the arms of the enemy who only desires to steal, kill, and destroy. What does God want us to do when we forget or forsake Him, and how does He want us to deal with those who do in our family?
- Your family would rejoice today, as would the family of God, if each of us would identify our true relationship with God, turn from it, and focus on JESUS!

1. Forgetting God

- a. Hosea 4:1 The Word of God reveals knowledge of God
- b. Hosea 4:5-6 Forgetting God leads to Falling away from God
- c. Hosea 8:2, 4 Proclaiming knowledge does not equal possessing knowledge
- d. Hosea 8:14 Protection is found in knowing God, not in physical power

2. Forsaking God

- a. Hosea 4:7, 10 Forgetting God always leads to acts that take you away from God
- b. Hosea 5:4 When you quench/reject Holy Spirit, you are vulnerable to false spirits
- c. Hosea 5:13 Forsaking God results in forsaking the blessings
- d. Hosea 7:10 The longer you forsake God, the harder your heart becomes to return

3. Focusing on God

- a. Hosea 5:15 The solution is genuine repentance and a complete focus on God
- b. Hosea 6:3, 6 God desires our love and knowledge rather than religious performances
- c. Hosea 7:13-14 God promises to redeem when we stop rebelling (repent) and return genuinely
- Have you forgotten who God is and what He requires of you? How intentional are you to study the Word and seek His face through prayer and godly friendships/counsel? Stop the drift now, repent, and return to Jesus.
- What you know to be true of God, are you forsaking through disobedience and rebellion? Are you a follower of Jesus? If not, believe in Him today. If yes, then repent of your actions, return to Jesus (Who will never forsake you).
- The nation of Israel had to go through the captivity to Assyria because they turned away from God, even though He warned them repeatedly. God desires to do justice for His people, not judge them. What will your choice be?

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read Romans 1 and Hosea 4. What are the similarities? What are some of the signs of people that are turning truths of God into lies? How much of “me” affects the relationship with God? When Hosea speaks of Gilgal and Beth Aven (Bethel house of God to House of Deceit), he is showing how places that once stood for God are now places training false prophets (II Kings 2:1; 4:38; Amos 4:4; 5:5; Hosea 9:15; 12:11). What are some current examples of this transition today?
2. Read Hosea 5. God calls out the religious leaders and the political leaders for leading this rebellion rather than preventing it. Notice verse 10 that it speaks of moving a landmark. This is referring to moving the boundaries given by God when He divided the promised land for each tribe (Numbers 34:1-12 and Joshua 13-19). But it has a spiritual meaning as well. The leaders were trying to change the spiritual boundaries of what God said was right/wrong versus what the people wanted. What are some examples today? Notice verses 14-15, what does God want versus what He will do because of their choices?
3. Read Hosea 6. Notice verse 3. Some translations state the end as like the former and latter rain upon the earth. Hebrew culture counted on two rains. One in the fall to prepare the ground and one in the spring to produce the fruit. Both are required and expected. God desires to bless us in our lives, even during a period of being barren, but we must return to Him for the second rain. Read II Chronicles 7:14. That's an example of a call to the second rain. Repentance leads to spiritual rain, blessing. If there is dryness in your spirit, then it's a call to repentance.
4. Read Hosea 7; Jeremiah 17:9; 31:34. Israel's problem was they knew they had a problem, they just failed to recognize THEY WERE THE PROBLEM! They didn't like the consequences or the circumstances, but they refuse to return to God. What are some problems that we see today that people fail to take responsibility for? How does our heart blind our eyes?
5. Read Hosea 8; I Corinthians 2:14; Isaiah 37:33-36. Charles Spurgeon said, “If this be the Word of God, what will become of some of you who have not read it for the last month? Most people treat the Bible very politely... When they get home, they lay it up in a drawer till next Sunday morning; then it comes out again for a little bit of a treat and goes to chapel; that is all the poor Bible gets in the way of an airing. That is your style of entertaining this heavenly messenger. There is dust enough on some of your Bibles to write “damnation” with your fingers.” We must know God through the Holy Spirit guiding us through the Word by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Israel had become more focused on their temples and traditions than they were the truth of their God. What are some ways churches can do the same thing today?