

SERMON NOTES:

- The devil feeds our rebellious nature by getting us to listen to his voice rather than the voice of God. Remember Genesis 3 and Matthew 4: Did God really say?
 - We have to discern between the act of worship and the object of our worship. Remember what Jesus told the woman at the well: You worship whom you do not know
 - Israel was living in prosperity and religious activities, but their hearts were dry and void of knowing God
1. Rebellion of Corruption: Restoration begins with identifying any rebellion
 - a. Hosea 9:9-10 Consecration either devotes you to righteousness or rebellion
 - b. Hosea 9:15 Rebellion is progressive; the rebellion of one becomes the rebellion of the majority
 - c. Hosea 9:17 The path to rebellion begins with a deaf ear to the call of God
 - d. Hosea 10:1-2 God's goodness often leads humanity to worship other gods
 - e. Hosea 11:7 Our sinful nature's default is to turn from God
 2. Rain of Righteousness: Preparation for God's righteousness begins with preparing our heart to receive it
 - a. Hosea 10:12 Prepare for Rain with work of righteousness and love
 - b. Hosea 10:13 Turn from your own way to the way of God
 3. Roar of Authority: Listening to the voice of God leads to victory over rebellion
 - a. Hosea 11:9 The mercy of God allows for the return of the rebel
 - b. Hosea 11:10-11 When God roars, His children are set free
 - c. Hosea 11:12 When it looks like everyone has turned away, God always has His witnesses
- No coincidence that during the tribulation, witnesses for Jesus are 144,000 Jewish believers (Revelation 7:4; 14:3-4)
 - Israel would go into captivity for 70 years because they did not follow this pattern: their consecration became captivity due to their choices. Are you living in consecration or captivity?
 - Hosea 10:12 It is time to seek the LORD!

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read Hosea 9; Judges 19; Numbers 25; II Kings 2:1; 4:38; Amos 4:4; 5:5; Deuteronomy 30: 14-18; Hebrews 8:12; 10:16-17. The Old Testament is full of examples of Israel taking a godly place or time and corrupting it with rebellious acts against their God. God was good in creating them, calling them into covenant, and blessing them; yet, they would choose to go way from Him because they became deceived by the lights of the enemy. What are some ways that we turn away from God today? What are some lights that the enemy uses today to distract us and lead us away from God? How would you define rebellion against God?
2. Read Hosea 10; Galatians 5:13; Genesis 14:15; Matthew 13:1-23. God often deals with the heart and its response to Him. Romans 10:9 requires agreement between the mouth and the heart for salvation to occur. The Israelites used their mouth to call out to God but their hearts were turned away from Him. How does the parable of the sower in Matthew 13 parallel the actions of Israel in the times of Hosea? In the times of our world today? How do righteousness and steadfast love prepare the soil of our heart to receive God's rain of righteousness?
3. Read Hosea 11; Deuteronomy 29:23; Philippians 2; Matthew 2:15. What does it mean that God led Israel with cords of kindness with bands of love? How does it compare to the statement that God gave strength to the legs that would eventually run away from Him? What are some ways that we use the blessings of God to curse Him? Notice the phrase in verse 9 for I am God and not a man. What does that comparison reveal about righteousness and rebellion? If we were in charge, how would we treat those who rebel against us? God's roar calls us to see, return, and follow Him. Read John 10 and note ways that Jesus calls us.
4. Read Genesis 3 and Matthew 4. The devil always tries to get us to listen to his voice rather than focus on what God says. How did he do that with Eve? How did it change it to deal with Jesus? The enemy's voice is different depending on the person he is addressing, but his goal is always the same: rebellion against God and obedience to him. Read Isaiah 30:21; Psalm 119:105; John 8:47; John 14:26; Romans 8:14; Hebrews 3:15. How do we hear the voice of the LORD? How do we obey His voice? How do we discern His voice from the voice of the enemy?