



## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO HOSEA**

### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Michael P.V. Barrett, *Love Divine and Unfailing*, 2008.

James Montgomery Boice, *The Minor Prophets, Vol. 1.*, 2002.

### Head: Understanding the Bible

- 1) Hosea 1:1-3. Why does God tell Hosea to marry a woman who will be unfaithful to him? What kind of relationship is God comparing ours with?
- 2) What do the names of Gomer's children teach us about sin? (Hosea 1:4-11)
- 3) In chapter 2 we are given a description of Israel's sin, embodied by Gomer. What is she doing wrong? What's her motivation? How does Hosea respond? How is Hosea's response a small glimpse of how God loves His people?

*"Hosea was dealing with a people whose spiritual callousness, hardened by material riches, desensitized them to spiritual matters. The good life, thanks to Jereboam, made Hosea's job hard."* (Barrett 30)

- 4) Hosea 3 pictures the cost of love. What is Hosea commanded to do for Gomer?

*"Hosea loved Gomer in spite of what he knew about her, in spite of the potential of his being deeply hurt by her."* (Barrett 84)

- 5) Hosea 3 ends with a picture of the future. What will God's relationship with His people be like in the future? When will this happen?

## Heart: Using the Gospel on Our Affections

5) Sin is spiritual adultery. It's a teaching of the whole Bible. James 4:4 calls God's people adulteresses, because of disordered loves. What's the difference between saying, "You violated God's law" or "You have been unfaithful to God like a marriage when you sin?"

6) How does Jesus redeem unfaithful people like us? How similar is Jesus' experience on the cross to that of Gomer about to be sold in the marketplace? What's different? Compare the cost of Gomer's redemption with ours.

## Hands: Applying the Gospel to Our Lives

*"For you are people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It is not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you..."*

~Deuteronomy 7:6-8

8) Does God's love for you make any sense when described in the context of a broken marriage? What things tend to draw your attention and affection more than God?

9) How does God's faithful love motivate us, the faithless, to be faithful and keep God's commandments? What different ways ought we to apply God's one-way married love to our lives?

10) Take time to pray for deeper understanding, gratitude and grace to love as we have been loved.

*O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above*

~Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, #457