

Monday, August 29

God called Hosea to demonstrate literally the dynamic between God and God's unfaithful people Israel by marrying Gomer, an unfaithful wife. God even instructed Hosea to name his children according to the dark, prophetic warnings that God sent in an effort to call the people back into obedience. As a symbolic of God's willingness to restore relationship with the Israelites, God directed Hosea to take Gomer and restore his marriage with her.

Hosea 1-3

- What loving and forgiving characteristics of God do you see in this reading?
- Hosea demonstrated complete obedience to God, no matter how difficult or challenging God's requests. What is the most challenging request that God is now making of you? How are you doing?

Tuesday, August 30

The people of Israel assumed that God's anger would last only a short time and the God's loving care would quickly resume. But God's response through Hosea let them know God's true desire was for their acknowledgement of faithfulness at the heart level, not only through religious sacrifice.

Hosea 6:1-7; Leviticus 26:3-17

- According to Hosea, what did God request of the people in order for them to receive God's blessings? What blessings of God are named in Leviticus?
- What is God trying to teach you right now through the consequences of your actions—or what have you learned in the past?

Wednesday, August 31

Hosea reminded his people of the importance of preparing the ground and sowing the right "seeds"—those of righteousness—in order to reap the harvest of God's love and care. Hosea also used the image of the love of a father for his son to describe God's commitment to the Israelite people.

Hosea 10:12-11:11

- What was the spiritual meaning when Hosea urged the people to "break up" their "unplowed ground" (10:12)?
- As you look over the whole of your life (relationships, character, spiritual integrity, handling of your possessions), is there any "unplowed ground" you need to break up in order to plant seeds of godly obedience? In which of these areas? Name your next step to get started.

Thursday, September 1

Hosea's urging to the Israelites included strong advice about denouncing the human strength of their eventual conqueror, the neighboring country of Assyria, and acknowledging God as the only source of provision. In the final chapter of this book, Hosea likened God to a tree providing people with fruitfulness.

Hosea 14

- Reread verse 9. Why do some walk easily and others stumble on God's "way," or path?
- According to Hosea, living in obedience to God brings fruitfulness. In what ways have you "blossomed" (been transformed) since you committed yourself to following Jesus?