

Hosea Lesson 3 | 8:1-3, 8:7-10, 9:7-8, 10:10-12

[1/13/12]

- Background
 - We are going to look at how God does discipline his people that have gone astray. This discipline is for our benefit and it is redemptive which means to save us from our errors or from evil.
 - Hebrews 12:5-6
 - “And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: My son, do not take the Lord’s discipline lightly or faint when you are reproved by Him, for the Lord disciplines the one He loves and punishes every son he receives”
 - God disciplines us because he wants us to return to our godly living.
 - When we looked at Hosea’s wife Gomer we saw that she essentially hit rock bottom when she was made into a slave, but then she was redeemed by her husband and brought back.
- Check Your Relationship (Hosea 8:1-3) (This is God speaking)
 - Verse 1
 - War has now come upon Israel. Because of their disobedience to God and their complete disregard for his Law the Israelites are being severely disciplined.
 - During this time period the Northern kingdom of Israel was attacked by the Assyrian army.
 - This army was a very feared and powerful army.
 - So the Israelites put a horn to their mouth which was a battle horn used from a RAM.
 - Sound the alarm you are being attacked as one like an eagle or vulture depending on the translation is coming against you.
 - This is reference to the swiftness of the Assyrian army, the Israelites would be overwhelmed.
 - Again we see the reason for this in the latter part of verse 1 “they transgress My covenant and rebel against My law”
 - The Israelites broke the covenant of He would be to them a God, and they to Him a people.
 - God’s justice is always unquestionable and is used for our benefit so we can learn.
 - This was God’s discipline for Israel.
 - **How often does this happen to us? Have you hit “rock bottom” before? Have you been disciplined for your disobedience to God? Did you learn from this discipline?**
 - Verse 2
 - Here we have an interesting statement made by Israel “My God, we know you!”
 - This was hypocrisy! It amounts to a mere cry of fear as opposed to love.
 - The Israelite people in their demise cry out to God, saying God we know you! We know that you are God!
 - Double-Life
 - They were living sort of a double life; they were worshiping idols and appointing themselves kings that were not approved by God.
 - Hosea 8:4
 - “They have installed kings, but not through Me. They have appointed leaders, but without My approval. They make their

silver and gold into idols for themselves for their own destruction.”

- But on the other hand they were still performing the ritualistic sacrifices to God
 - Hosea 8:13
 - “Though they offer sacrificial gifts and eat the flesh, the Lord does not accept them. Now He will remember their guilt and punish their sins; they will return to Egypt” (not literally but back into captivity)
 - So Israel probably more out of habit and tradition was sacrificing to the Lord but were passionately involved with their idols and false God’s.
- The people of Israel were trying to tell God that hey we know you so why are you bringing this calamity upon us.
- This was prophesied by Isaiah
 - Isaiah 29:13
 - “Because these people approach me with their mouths to honor me with lip-service yet their hearts are far from me, and their worship [consists of] man-made rules learned [by rote]”
 - Rote meaning learning by memorization
 - God obviously saw through their hypocritical actions and saw their heart. He knew that regardless of the physical actions of sacrificing to God and verse memorization that they were not following their one and True God.
 - This is the same plea that Jesus said would be rejected in the Day of Judgment.
 - Matthew 7:21-23
 - “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord!’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but [only] the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. On that day many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?’ Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you! Depart from Me, you lawbreakers!’”
 - **As we can see from what happened to Israel, that truly knowing God is not just memorizing scripture and knowing what we need to do. But it requires taking God’s commands to heart and fervently obeying and striving to do his will.**
 - **Do you see these from people in our society today? That from our point of view they may talk like a Christian but there actions show otherwise.**
 - **Do you sometimes see yourself acting the same way?**
- Verse 3
 - Israel rejected what is good which is the true knowledge and understanding of God.
 - It’s not like they didn’t know for Samuel told them.
 - 1 Samuel 7:3
 - “Samuel told them, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, get rid of the foreign gods and the Ashtorths that are among you, dedicate yourselves to the Lord, and worship only Him. Then he will rescue you from the hand of the Philistines.”
 - Samuel told them to dedicate themselves to the Lord not the Lord and other God’s.

- But they didn't remember or chose to forget and they were cursed and conquered by their enemies.
 - God had even forewarned them that this would happen!
 - Leviticus 26:14-17
 - **As Christians do we have any excuses for our sins?**
 - **Likewise we do not have any excuses for our sins. We have been well informed of what happens and God has laid out for us how we as Christians are supposed to act.**
- You Reap What You Sow (Hosea 8:7-10)
 - Verse 7
 - You reap what you sow is the same as your actions have consequences. For good or for bad.
 - For good:
 - Deuteronomy 28:2
 - "All these blessings will come and overtake you, because you obey the Lord your God.
 - For bad:
 - Deuteronomy 28:15
 - "But if you do not obey the Lord your God by carefully following all his commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you:
 - God will not be mocked or fooled.
 - Galatians 6:7-9
 - "Don't be deceived: god is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap, because the one who sows to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up."
 - The people of Israel were about to realize that there was consequences for their sins and complete disregard for God.
 - The Israelites were spending lots of time and energy looking and acting spiritual but the sad truth was that they were spiritually dead. They were sowing deeds of the sinful flesh.
 - The consequence for this was the whirlwind of destruction.
 - The Israelites would not prosper and anything that they did have would be taken from them.
 - Verse 8
 - The Israelites would be conquered and those that survived would be captives and would be scattered like discarded pottery.
 - Verse 9
 - Israel forgetting God, their strength and their glory, went to the Assyrian's for help.
 - They went as a wild donkey (not a complement) a wild beast running desperately here and there in search of food or water.
 - Ephraim has paid for love or in other translations hired lovers.
 - The tribe of Ephraim or the Northern Kingdom of Israel had tried to buy love, which was help or assistance from the Assyrians with gold that was very much needed.
 - This was of course not done under the consultation of God they did this on their own and it was not what God wanted them to do.
 - They were sort of courting the devil for assistance.
 - Verse 10

- So not only did Israel try to court the Assyrian's but they were also courting other nations to help them against Assyria.
 - So the really the punishing blow that started this snowball in Israel started because Israel had made themselves known to the Assyrians. They may not have known they were vulnerable had they not of reached out to them.
 - **This example of what happened to Israel should serve as a warning for us. We do reap what we sow our actions have consequences. We do have to answer for our sins and that a complete disregard for God's commands will put us on the receiving end of God's wrath.**
 - **Have you ever had a time in your life where you feel you were being punished because of your complete disregard for God?**
- Hear a Warning When You Hear It (Hosea 9:7-8)
 - Verses 7-8
 - During this time period there were false prophets that had hood-winked the people and promising them that the days they were experiencing would never come.
 - However there were still true prophets like Hosea that were the watchman of Israel.
 - They were they to watch over the people.
 - Unfortunately the people listened to the false prophets and even called the true prophets insane.
 - The Israelites also were no longer in a position of whether or not to believe there calamity was coming, but they now knew it because that time had come and they were feeling it.
 - **I think that we have warnings in our lives about our own sins. We hear warning and we may know that a particular sin or vice we are having difficulties with does have consequences.**
 - **We need to heed those warnings and turn away from them before it is too late.**
- Realize What Time It is (Hosea 10-10-12)
 - Verse 10
 - The Lord makes it clear that he is disciplining the Israelites at his discretion. The King James version says "It is in my desire that I should chastise them"
 - Nations would be gathered together against them to deliver the discipline for their crimes or sins.
 - Verse 11
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