



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, 6/3/2022

Scripture: Hosea

TITLE: Hosea – Unconditional Love

When have you felt the most loved by another person? Why did you feel that way? For me, it was about 17 years ago when my wife extended me unconditional love, mercy, and grace when I hurt her in deep ways. The unconditional love we can show another person in the face of incredible hurt is a beautiful picture of the love God freely gives His backsliding children. That is why we should study the Book of Hosea.

The book of Hosea is the first of the minor prophet books. They are not minor because they are less important than the major prophets. They are minor because their books are shorter.

Hosea had a forty-five-year ministry to the Northern Kingdom and spanned the reign of six kings of the Southern Kingdom. Some people call Hosea the “death-bed” prophet because he was the last to prophesy before the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria. The book of Hosea spans roughly 40 years of his 45-year ministry.

The book of Hosea is a deeply personal, painful, and hope-filled message. Hosea was married to Gomer, the mother of their three sons. The story is personal and painful because the first three chapters are all about the marriage of Hosea and Gomer. More specifically the ongoing and continual adultery of Gomer. She left her family to have affairs with many men. God encouraged Hosea to remain faithful and married to Gomer. In an incredible act of loving-kindness, in chapter three Hosea finds Gomer a slave and purchases her back. His unconditional love was a beautiful illustration of the love of God to His people. The next 10 chapters are all about the national adultery of Israel, God’s judgment, and the restoration through their unconditional lover, God.

Is Jesus found in Hosea? In two places. We see a picture of Christ Hosea 14:4 (CSB) where it says, “[I will heal their apostasy; I will freely love them, for my anger will have turned from him.](#)” Jesus is the friend of sinners and the lover of backsliders.

We also find a prophecy about the early years of Jesus. In Hosea 11:1, we find the prophecy of the Messiah being called out of Egypt. This happened in Matthew 2:15.

What’s the main thing from the Book of Hosea? It’s unconditional love. God’s love is free and unconditional for His children. That same love that He expresses to us, we can and should express to others.

Listen to what Hosea captures in Hosea 3:1. “Then the LORD said to me, ‘Go again; show love to a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, just as the LORD loves the Israelites though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes.’”

God’s love has no end for His children. He bought us with a high price. Though we may be faithless, He remains faithful. So here’s my challenge for you today:

Come back to God. All of us struggle with idolatry and adultery against God. It is tragic but not a surprise to God. In the face of our wandering, God waits at the door calling out, “I love you. No matter what. There is nothing that can separate you from my love. Come home. I have always loved you. I always will.”

So friend come home to God today. He is waiting.