

# BROKEN HEARTS

HOSEA 3 1-29-2020



*Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.*

Galatians 6:1

*...who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18

## RESTORATION OF THE BROKEN

It has been said that God's love is a redeeming love. He longs for those who are alienated from Him to once again be reconciled. The Father is willing to pay any price to see a prodigal son once again restored in a right relationship to Him. If need be, He will wait until that moment when the prodigal comes home.

This is what we see demonstrated in the story of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-32, and this is what we will see portrayed in the third chapter of Hosea.

As we pick up the chronicles of this Old Testament prophet, we are shocked that his wife, Gomer, leaves him for another man.

But what may surprise us the most is what the Lord did next. He tells Hosea to pursue Gomer and love her again. It may sound outrageous to us, but this is why we call this kind of grace, amazing!

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father didn't owe the youngest son anything. His neighbors near the ranch would have certainly understood had he

shut down in bitterness and resentment and pretended that he now only had one son rather than two sons.

The older brother responded to the wayward sibling as one might expect. If someone breaks your heart, then cast the rebel out and be done with them.

But the father desired restoration with his youngest son not alienation from him. Amazing, isn't it?

Hosea models this same kind of attitude toward a wayward spouse. Hosea learns redemptive love from the Father.

### **The Boy Who Lost His Sailboat**

The story is told of a little boy who carved a model sailboat and tied a long string on it to reel it in. After school one day, he put his precious boat into the water. Eventually, the wind blew the waves too hard and took the boat too far out. As he tried to reel it back in, the little string broke and the boat floated away with the current. The little guy spotted it in a store window that week and asked for it back. The manager said that he would sell it to him for \$2.00. He had saved just enough change to purchase it. On the way home he said, "'Little boat, you're twice mine! First, I made you, and now I bought you.'

## Commitment to Hear the Voice,

3:1

*"And the Lord said to me..."*

Do you believe that God is trying to tell us things, but we sometimes cannot hear Him? If so, what kinds of things could plug up our ears and hinder us from hearing His voice?

Pastor Rick Warren gives three mental barriers that he feels can diminish the voice of God in our minds.

*But if you really want to hear from God — and what believer doesn't? — you have to understand what is keeping you from hearing from God. Here are three mental barriers that keep your mind closed to God's message.*

**1. Pride.** *If you think you don't need God in your life and you want to handle things yourself, you're probably not listening for God to speak. Pride keeps you from being open to the possibility that God might want to say something to you.*

**2. Fear.** *A lot of people can't hear God because they're afraid to hear God speak. Maybe you think that hearing God's voice or sensing his leading makes you some kind of religious fanatic.*

**3. Bitterness.** *When you hold on to hurt, resentment, or a grudge, you're not going to be able to hear God, because your heart is hardened. It has grown cold and made you defensive, even to God's love.*

*Perhaps you have been hurt badly, maybe this week or even years ago, and you're still holding on to it. I want to tell you that you've got to let it go. Not for another person's sake, but for your sake. The resentment is killing you! Resentment is a self-inflicted wound that allows people from your past to continue to hurt you today.*

## Compliant with Forgiving the Vices, 3:1

*"And the Lord said to me, 'Go again...'"*

Do you think God was soft-pedaling the sin that Gomer was committing? Did He not even care about Hosea's broken heart?

Forgiving others is important for the spiritual health and wellbeing of the one who has been wounded by another.

Jesus taught that forgiving others was essential for the continued stream of forgiveness from Him toward us (Matthew 6:14-15).

Stephen was willing to forgive those who were unworthy of his forgiveness (Acts 7:59-60). This was very similar to Jesus when He was on the cross (Luke 23:34). We sometimes feel that we can forgive someone as long as they are repentant, but these verses indicate that forgiveness was extended even when the offenses were still in motion. Same was true of Gomer.

Peter once felt that perhaps there was a forgiving limit that should be imposed. But Jesus confronted that idea with His response to Peter in Matthew 18:21-22. Forgiving can be very difficult, but forgiving the same person over and over again can seem impossible.

Ephesians 4:32 reminds us of the highest reason to forgive the wounds of another toward us. It speaks of forgiving others *"as God in Christ forgave you"*.

When it comes right down to it, we are commanded by Christ to forgive others, so if we are hesitant to forgive them then we are disobeying Him.

Imagine how difficult this would have been for Hosea when he heard God tell him, *"Go again..."*

What are your thoughts about forgiving others who wrong us?

How has the Lord helped you with this issue of loving those in our lives who are broken?

## Compassionate in Attitude toward a "Villain" 3:1

"...love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins."

Real life includes enemies and those who are against us. Jesus, however, doesn't cut us any slack on hating our enemies in return (Mt. 5:43-48).

It is possible to go through the motions of attempting to make things right

with another while internally we are still angry and bitter toward them.

Did you notice how often God uses the word "love" in the last part v. 1?

Contrast the four uses of the "love" in this verse. Do you think the types of love referred to are all the same kind of love?

For example, what kind of love would Hosea need? What kind of love was the other man's love for Gomer? How about God's love for His children? Can someone "love" cakes of raisins?

## Consequences Will Affect the Velocity, 3:3-4

We can forgive someone for wrongs done instantly, but there will still be a process that will be necessary in order to rebuild trust. This will take time.

Hosea carefully outlined the steps that he and Gomer would need to take in order to restore the relationship fully. John the Baptist spoke of something similar when he described the fruits of repentance (Luke 3:7-18).

## Charting a Course with a Vision, 3:5

The last two verses take us from the personal relationship of Hosea and Gomer to an estranged relationship between Israel and God. It would remain broken for a while, but God gave Hosea insight and vision to a plan for a better day for Israel. This passage along with many other passages such as Romans 11 give us a clue that this has not yet taken place in the relationship between God and His ancient people, Israel. Like the embrace between a husband and wife in an airport, some day there will be a returning of Israel to the Lord their God (Romans 11:25-36). Zechariah also saw it (12:10; 13:1).

## Cost Will Depend upon the Value, 3:2

"So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley."

First, a *homer* was a unit of measurement that was equal to about 8 bushels. So, a *lethech* was equivalent to about 5.5 bushels. The price to redeem a slave in biblical times was 30 shekels of silver (Exodus 21:32).

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Mt. 26:15). Think about the great price that Jesus paid for us. He came to "give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Paul claimed we were "bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). The payment was made with His blood (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9; 14:4).

**Hosea 3, ESV**

<sup>1</sup>And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”

<sup>2</sup>So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.

<sup>3</sup>And I said to her, “You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you.”

<sup>4</sup>For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods.<sup>5</sup>Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES**