

Life lessons from Gomer

Various scriptures

When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, He said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods." -Hosea 1:2

Loyalty and faithfulness are admirable qualities that we all desire to see in our friendships and close relationships. Someone once said, "Faithfulness is key to spirituality, relationships and life." The example of Gomer not only highlights her unfaithfulness towards her husband and prophet Hosea, but more importantly it shines the light on the state of Israel and their unfaithfulness in embracing other gods. As we consider our personal relationship with God, one of the indicators that we truly love Him is evident in the nature of our worship and dedication to who He is and all He has done. Are you faithful to the Lord? Does He have your undivided love, or are you stepping out with someone or something else?

Did you know?

- *Gomer's personal name meaning "_____, enough," or "burning coal" She was the complete (filling up) measure of wickedness as an idolatress.
- *Gomer was the daughter of Diblaim whose personal name means "____ fig cakes" Many writers suggest that he too was given to sensuality.
- *Gomer was a _____ in the service of Baal and wife of Hosea. Hosea 1:2
- *Together Hosea and Gomer had _____ children.
- *Hosea's personal name means "_____, " "He saves, or He helps"
- *Hosea served as a prophet to _____.
- *Her story is told in Hosea 1:1-3:5

As the story continues....

By the time we come to the ministry of the prophet Hosea it is approximately 90-100 years since Elijah's showdown at Mt. Carmel where we read about the deaths of the prophets of Baal, Asherah and later on the death of Jezebel. The two kingdoms (Israel and Judah) are still divided, but Israel is on the brink of destruction and being taken captive by the Assyrian empire. King Jeroboam II was the king of _____ Although the nation was physically prosperous, they were morally declining. To put it another way, the rich were getting _____, the poor were getting _____ and spiritually, the nation was beginning to drift away from worshiping and honoring God alone. (Hosea 1:2)

So what does God do to get their attention? He commands Hosea to marry a prostitute. As we go deeper in this study, notice the contrast of commitment and love; Hosea (God) has for Gomer (Israel) and vice versa. Although Gomer never speaks a word in this book of prophecy, God ministers to Israel through Hosea's marriage with Gomer.

Looking at the church today, do you see any blatant acts of promiscuity in our relationship to the Lord? If so what are they?

God speaks through Gomer's children: Hosea 1:3-11 (Marriage)

*First born was a son named _____. This name/term means "God plants" or "God will sow". verses 3-5

It was symbolic of the judgement that would come upon Israel. Just as Jehu put the family members of the house of Ahab, God was going to put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. (2 Kings 9:7-10:28)

*Second born was a daughter named ____ - _____. This name/term means "No compassion". verses 6-7

It was symbolic of the judgement that God would no longer have compassion on Israel and extending His favor. This became true as the people of Israel did not return to their land after exile like the people of Judah.

*Third born was a son named ____ - _____. This name/term means "Not My people" or "I will not be I AM to you". verses 8-9

It was symbolic of the judgement that God would no longer be their God because they had broken the conditional covenant that required their obedience to Him. (Exodus 19:5)

After hearing this judgement, how do you think this made them feel?

Although this may have been harsh and difficult to understand, notice what God promises in verses 10-11

*Too numerous to count

*Restored into the family of God

*Israel and Judah reunited

*Land will be blessed

Sadly many of the people stumbled over this judgment and never accepted Jesus Christ as the true Messiah. What can we do today to help those who have sinned and are mad at God to remember His promises?

God Speaks regarding Gomer's Adultery: Hosea 2 (Divorce)

After the word of Judgement came against Israel, instead of repenting they chose to continue in sin. So God instructs Hosea to rebuke his mother, Israel.

*Promiscuous ways: Hosea 2:2-5;6-8

Their behavior is best identified as _____ love. Although it was God who took care of them, they got dressed up and followed after Baal the god of fertility thinking

that was the reason for their prosperity. So God's plan was to block their way with _____, enclose them with a _____ so they were unable to pursue idol worship.

*Shame of Adultery: Hosea 2:9-13

God said He would.....

*Take back His grain and new _____

*Expose their _____ in the sight of their lovers

*They would be powerless.

*End their phony worship.

*Destroy their _____.

Have you ever been blinded by something you thought was great only to find out it drove you further away from God? How did it make you feel? Isaiah 53:6

God speaks regarding Gomer's restoration: Hosea 2:14-3 (Remarriage)

God used a time of famine and loneliness in the wilderness to get their attention to come back to Him. Oftentimes we don't view hard places and difficult circumstances as an opportunity for God to speak tenderly to us but in verse 15 He says He'll make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There She will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.

God declared that.... Hosea 2:14-23

They would call Him husband

They would forget about Baal

He'll make a new covenant of peace with them

He will take her as His wife in righteousness, justice, love and _____

He will take her as His wife in faithfulness

He will bless the prosperity of their crops

He will bless and sow in the land

Not only that He told Hosea to 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,

Hosea bought Gomer for _____ shekels of silver and 5 bushels of barley.

In hearing this story, can you imagine loving someone this much? Can you see yourself loving someone this much? _____

This is what God does for us through Jesus Christ who purchased us with His own blood.

In consideration of God's love for us verses our love for Him is there any area in your life that could be slipping away? What commitments are you willing to make to remain in fellowship with God?

As you reflect on this study, what is the the greatest lesson learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

"He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse us for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works." -Titus 2:14