

Hosea - Living the Message, Pt 2
Coming home...through the desert.
Hosea 2:1-3:5
July 13, 2025

I. A CALL to RETURN to relationship. (v.2-13)

A. A SKEWED vision of REALITY. (v.5-8)

B. The FRUIT of FORGETTING (v.3-13)

Hosea's wife Gomer (and Israel) have left their "husband". Despite the love shown to them they have pursued fulfillment and love in another way...another way that is destructive and hurtful. And in the words and life of the Prophet God calls the people to return to Him.

1. Kid's Question: When has a friend hurt your feelings or been mean to you? How did that work out?
2. Have you ever come to realize that you had a skewed understanding of a situation that you lived through? If so how did you realize that?

II. The PAINFUL pathway HOME. (v.1-14)

A. God FRUSTRATES her FULFILLMENT. (v.5-7)

B. He REMOVES her ANCHORS. (v.11)

C. He let her FEEL the LOSS. (v.9-12)

D. To bring her HOPE in the DESERT. (v.14)

The pathway back to home is not an easy one. Often that is because we refuse to let go of what we think will bring us fulfillment. But God will do whatever is necessary to wake us up to the destructive reality we are living in, and to welcome us home. Even if that means taking us into the desert.

3. God allows Israel to suffer and struggle to bring the people back to him. How do you feel about that?
4. When do you think God "allured you into the desert to speak tenderly to you"? What was that like?

III. God (and HOSEA) take the INITIATIVE. (2:14-3:5)

A. LOVE that brings RESTORATION and SHALOM. (v.15-18,21-23)

B. It RESTS firmly on VOWS. (v.19-20)

C. It's COSTLY, but TRANSFORMATIVE. (3:1-5, Chapter 11)

What is so clear in this story is that if it were up to Gomer (and Israel) there would be no hope. They have no desire to return, even if staying the course is

going to destroy them. They don't know what they don't know. But God (and Hosea) do. So they take the active steps to bring the wayward bride home, even if it costs them dearly.

5. When has God taken the initiative with you?
6. Which of God's "vows" resonates most deeply with where you currently are in your life?

IV. God's PURSUING love invites a RESPONSE. (2:14)

- A. God always MOVES toward US. (2:14; I Jn 4:19)**
- B. The DESERT cultivates HUNGER for SHALOM. (2:14; Rom. 8:18-23)**
- C. RESPONDING to the VOWS. (2:16; 3:3)**

And today God pursues us the same way...sacrificing all to bring us home to Himself. He moves toward us, no matter how far we run away. Will we let the desert create a hunger for *shalom* in us? Will we respond to the vows that God is making today?

7. Do you feel your spiritual life depends more on your efforts, or on God's moving toward you? How would your life look different if you could rest more in God's initiative?
8. How can you cultivate a hunger for shalom? How is God inviting you to respond to His vows this week?