

Hosea - Living the Message, Pt 3
What happens in the heart of God
Hosea 6:1-11; 11:1-11
July 20, 2025

I. The WANDERERS finally RESPOND. (6:1-11)

- A. The DESIRE to RETURN is there. (6:1-3)**
- B. But the “FOLLOW-THROUGH” is LACKING. (6:4)**
- C. God DESIRES a deeper TRANSFORMATION. (6:5-11)**

We've seen Hosea live out the story of God's relationship with Israel. It's been a difficult thing to watch as Israel again and again wanders away from the One who loves them. In chapter 6 we get a hint of the desire that they have to return. But it's complicated...

1. Kid's Question: When have you really wanted to do something well or right and still messed it up? How did that make you feel?
2. In your own life do you feel this tension between a desire for God and a struggle to follow through on that desire? What do you do when that happens?

II. The GREATEST love STORY of all. (11:1-11)

- A. It STARTED at the very BEGINNING. (11:1,3)**
- B. Facing INTERNAL and ONGOING resistance. (11:2,4,7)**
- C. A LOVE deeper than our FAILURES. (11:5-11)**

Chapter 11 seems like just another story of love that isn't being returned...until we get down to verse 8. Something happens here within the heart of God. His heart is overturned and his compassion is aroused. And this means that there is hope for Israel that goes deeper than their own ability to be summoned up faithfully.

3. What strikes you about the description of God's love for Israel? Have you sensed God's love for you? In what ways?
4. Where is one area you feel resistant toward God and his call to you at the moment? What is driving that resistance?
5. Can you accept the love of God in spite of your resistance? Why or why not? Do you want to be able to?

III. God's FAITHFULNESS and our FAILING. (Hos. 6,11; Lam. 3:19-24)

- A. He desires RELATIONSHIP more than RITUAL. (6:6; 11:9; Mt. 11:28-29)**

- B. He CARRIES the WEIGHT of its success. (11:8-11; Lk. 23:34)**
- C. Transformative LOVE and COMPASSION. (11:8-11; Matt. 27:54)**
- D. While we may FAIL repeatedly, He DOESN'T. (11:10-11; Lam.3:22-24)**

The book of Hosea reminds us of the deep and powerful love of God for us... wherever we find ourselves. And while this love and compassion is transformative, the transformation is more the fruit of that love and compassion than the ticket to receiving it. God will not let those He loves destroy themselves.

- 6. How can you know if what you have with God is a religious system or a true relationship? Are you happy about where you currently are in this regard?
- 7. How does the truth that God “carries the weight” of the success of your relationship with Him impact you? Do you actually believe that? Why or why not?
- 8. When have you seen transformation happen in your own life or in the life of someone you know? Did love and compassion play a role in that? How?