

Marriage To God: SALVATION! (Hosea 5)

Deuteronomy 28:15,33,47: *“But it shall come about, if you do not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses will come upon you:...A people whom you do not know shall eat up the produce of your ground and all your labors, and you will never be anything but oppressed and crushed continually...Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things.”*

Hosea 5:4 states, *“For a spirit of harlotry is within them, and they do not know the LORD.”*

1. Look back at Hosea 2:8-13 and see what the attitude of heart is in the person/people who are under the influence of a spirit of harlotry. Does a spirit of harlotry cause a person to be a thankful servant? Why not?

Also look at Hosea 5:5 which states, *“Moreover the pride of Israel testifies against him”* and Hosea 5:15 which says, *“I will go away and return to My place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”*

Hosea 2:19-20: *“I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, in lovingkindness and in compassion, and I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.”*

2. If this was your husband and you were Gomer, what would you say would flow out of your heart in word and deed? What words could we use to describe the inner attitude of this wife?

Only through marriage does God say that His people can really know Him. What can we boast in with regard to this marriage? What could Gomer boast in, in her marriage to Hosea? We can boast in the Lord! We can *“serve the Lord our God with joy and a glad heart, for the abundance of all things”* (Deuteronomy 28:47).

3. Is a “thankful, joyful servant” a good description for a husband and wife... a goal we should aspire to in our marriages?

Let's look at two attitudes that we see in the people and consider how it could apply to us in our relationships. What type of people are they?

Hosea 4:4 "Yet let no one _____, and let none offer _____."

Hosea 4:16 "Since Israel is _____."

Hosea 5:5 "Moreover, the _____ of Israel testifies against him"

Ephesians 4:29-5:2 warns us and commands us to get rid of all bitterness. Hebrews 12:15 warns, "See to it that on one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."

"Bitterness is what we feel when others sin against us... We do not get bitter towards evil outside of our own immediate contact. Bitterness is based upon someone else's sin who is close to us, and who did something to us" (from 'How to Be Free from Bitterness' by Jim Wilson).

The other attitude we will look at is pride which we see in Hosea 6:11: "Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgment, because he was determined to follow man's command." In the few verses following this we see what God's people reaction was in time of crisis.

How could we be tempted to follow man's commands in building the church and what would the result be? (Hosea 5:13-15)

Keep in mind that this wasn't a one-time mistake by the people but a continual lifestyle. Hosea 5:4 says, "Their deeds will not allow them to return to their God." This is the end result of a marriage that has been bad for years. Now the time of crisis comes and instead of turning to God the people turn to man. We can say from this point in Hosea that "knowing God" is only achieved through a continual faithful marriage to Him.

If we find ourselves with bitterness in our heart, a tendency to rely on ourselves and others in time of difficulty what hope do we find in Hosea 5:15? God is faithful!

We can see the danger of the popular evangelistic technique of telling people how much God loves them and how asking Jesus to come into their hearts without first repenting doesn't result in a true conversion. Hosea 5:15 says, "until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face;". Also, Hosea said to Gomer in 3:3, "You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will be toward you."
