

# AN ANCIENT LOVE REKINDLED

# Relentless Love

HOSEA 2:2-23

FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA

**Memory Verse:** Hosea 2:19-20 – “And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.”

**Icebreaker:** Pastor Jeremy discussed the way in which the nation of Israel gradually adopted other gods as a form of self-help religion. What are some “gods” people seek today for self-help religion?

1. Gomer’s sin has affected the lives around her—most notably her husband and children. The children grow up with a mother continually leaving to chase after lovers. Everyone knows what she’s doing. How does Gomer’s pursuit of other lovers relate to the nation of Israel? What impact do her actions have on her children? What does this teach us about the effects of our sin on others?

2. Hosea, the husband, still desires to provide for his wife. He knows that if he continues to provide for her, he will be enabling her spiritual adultery. In the same way, if we persist in sin, we force God to withdraw His provision. While it may seem harsh, how is the removal of provision a display of grace on God’s behalf? How should Christians view the removal of God’s provision?

3. In Hosea 2:13, God concisely states the reason He will step away from the nation of Israel: they forgot Him and pursued false gods. But we also see in Hosea 2:7-8 that God saw the heart of the nation as they turned back to Him during judgment. God understands our motives. What are some ways that God uses little moments in our lives to reveal the motives of our hearts? How can a follower of Jesus examine their motives for purity?

4. God looks back to the beginning when the people came out of the wilderness to enter the Promised Land—God wants them to come back to Him. He longs to restore the broken intimacy and renew a dependence on Him. How has your reliance on God grown since you started following Him? What are some ways God has led you to a more intimate relationship with Him?

*Digging Deeper:* Hosea 2:15 refers to the Valley of Achor. Read Joshua 7 for the history of the Valley of Achor. What does it mean that God will make “the Valley of Achor a door of hope”? How has God redeemed dark moments in your past? Or, what dark moment in your past would you long for God to redeem?

5. Hosea 2 closes with a picture of the second coming of Jesus when all things will be restored. What does it mean to be “betrothed to God forever in righteousness, justice, steadfast love, mercy, and faithfulness”? Read Revelation 21:1-4. How does Revelation build on what we see at the end of Hosea 2?

*Digging Deeper:* Hosea 2:18 contains a picture of the peace that once existed in the garden of Eden and will exist once more when Christ returns. Read Isaiah 11:1-10. What more do you learn about God’s restoration?

## Live It:

1. Where are you persisting in sin or resisting dependence on God? Where do you need an intervention?
2. Pastor Jeremy listed worship, studying the Word, and prayer as three areas where we can settle for less of God. Where do you need to engage with God on a deeper level? Where are you settling for less?
3. What promises of God for future peace can you hold onto today?