

## HOSEA:

### WHAT TO THINK WHEN GOD SAYS HE IS ABANDONING YOU (PART 2)

(Hosea 9:1-12)  
October 14, 2012  
Pastor Craig R. Jarvis

*It finally comes down to it...  
Israel has abandoned their God. They no longer want Him around.  
...Now, God responds.  
(Hosea 9:12)*

#### Why does God discipline me as His Child? (last week)

- ❖ God disciplines in love.
- ❖ God disciplines with a purpose.

*“And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”” (Hebrews 12:5–6, ESV)*

#### How does God Discipline Me as His Child?

- ❖ Question: How do I know it is discipline and not just a painful experience?
- ❖ Sometimes, discipline is just God pulling His hand back. (Example: Job)
- ❖ Sometimes, discipline is God intentionally testing us (not “tempting”)
  - God tests us to grow us up.
  - God’s plan for our lives is not comfort but holiness. (Reflecting Jesus)
    - ✓ We are lights in a dark world when we go through testing well.
    - ✓ We grow closer to the heart of God when we go through testing well.
- ❖ Sometimes, discipline is God’s warning that if we proceed further down paths of sin, we will find ruin.
  - This is the case in Hosea 9.
  - When humanity is caught up in sin, they just wish God would go away.
  - God disciplines to help us find our way home and remain under His protection.
    - “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.” (Proverbs 12:1, ESV)
      - ✓ Hating correction/discipline equals stupidity.
      - ✓ Appreciating discipline equals knowledge.
  - God disciplines us by reminding us of His Word.

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:9–11, ESV)*

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16–17, ESV)*

#### In what Way Should I Respond to Discipline as God’s Child?

1. Check the motives of my heart.
2. Repent for known wrong-doing. (Being sorry is not enough)
3. Find a spiritual friend to keep you accountable.
4. Digest God’s Word regularly.
5. Pray continually.

- ❖ Key action to learn through discipline: “Bend” in the training.

*“For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (Hebrews 12:10–11, ESV)*

- Discipline is to “train” us. (“Gymnazo” in Greek)
- A gym is where you train your body to be strong.

*“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train (gymnazo) yourself for godliness;” (1 Timothy 4:7, ESV)*

- Training requires discipline.

- ❖ Discipline may make us “feel” like God has abandon us. (Like Job)

- But the truth is – perhaps this discipline is a reminder that God still loves us.
- Perhaps God is training us today for something we must go through tomorrow.

*“If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” (1 Timothy 4:6–8, ESV)*

- ❖ Be confident that the end of discipline is not your demise but rather the glory of God.

*“a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law.” (Isaiah 42:3-4, ESV)*

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#### A Word of Encouragement:

*Discipline can make us wise and strong – if we heed it.*

*It is essential that we go through discipline in order to build a strong faith.*

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