

The Vow: Part Three

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The Vow: Part 3¹

Paula Stanton was given a ring by her husband Michael to celebrate their twentieth anniversary. But one day while she was in the bathroom at their house doing “bathroom things,” the ring slipped off her fingers and was accidentally flushed down the toilet. She said that “It had been a little big on my finger, because it was winter time and my hands were smaller.” Stanton went on to say, “I felt so bad about it. Sad and embarrassed.”

She was so distraught that even three years later, when the public works department was doing some work on the sewer line, she alerted one of their workers to the possibility that her ring might be somewhere in the sewer pipes.

Public employee Ted Gogol had heard about the ring, and just happened to be doing some recent maintenance work by the Stanton house when he saw something glittery in the mud next to a manhole cover. Gogol reached out to Stanton, and after a boiling treatment of lemon juice and peroxide, the ring is back on her finger where it belongs.

That’s a cool story, and it serves as a metaphor for marriage for some of you. Some of you might feel like your marriage is going through...well...the sewer pipes. But that doesn’t make it any less valuable and precious. And I’m here to tell you that it can be cleaned up and put back on again and be a thing of beauty!

We are on the third of our four-Sunday series called, “The Vow,” learning about marriage from stories and instruction found in Scripture. Vows matter – especially the marriage vow.

For those of us who are married, I want to encourage you not only to take good notes, but also to consider attending our marriage conference at the end of the month. You heard the announcements about it, and you can go to the Ministry Center to learn more and sign up, or contact us in the church office. You’ll want to do it soon, because the deadline to sign up is next Sunday.

Now, if you are single, I’m not suggesting that somehow your life is incomplete, or you should be married. If you stay with me, you will learn faith and relational principles that apply to *your* life and relationships, married or not. And, if you do get married, this series will be helpful to you at that point, too.

If you have your Bibles with you, let’s turn to the book of Hosea in the Old Testament. As you are turning there, I hope you are ready for a challenging message.

So let me start by asking you this: how many of you plan on one day committing adultery – cheating on your spouse – how many of you? Raise your hand if that’s your plan. How many of you plan on getting married, having kids, and then getting into a bitter, ugly divorce? Maybe it’s your five-year or ten-year plan? That’s interesting: I ask you if you plan on doing these things and nobody does. And yet, statistically, half or so of you will do both.

¹ Outline and content from “New Beacon Bible Commentary” and from a sermon by Craig Groeschel, “Once Upon a Marriage.”

According to studies more than half will commit adultery. Somewhere around half, according to almost every study will end up divorced. You don't plan on doing that and yet a lot of people do. Why is that? All sorts of answers are possible.

One of them I believe, is that society does a horrible job preparing people for marriage. In fact, I would argue that society is more successful at preparing people for divorce. Think about it. Dating today prepares you for divorce. It used to be there were certain behaviors that were reserved for marriage. Nowadays the difference between dating and marriage is often just a little ceremony that doesn't mean a whole lot to people because when they're dating, they do what married people used to do. Basically play house, pretend to be married, do married things. When it doesn't work out, they take their toothbrush and their broken heart, pack it up and basically practice divorce. After we've done that with two or three people, or eight people, or twelve people, or twenty-two people, it's no wonder that when the only thing that's really different is a little ceremony, it doesn't mean that much. When things get tough, is it any wonder that many people grab their toothbrush and what's left of their heart and move on? Society has trained us well for divorce.

Many of you who will be married one day, or who are married now, you are going to face some bumps in the road. The normal logic is, when things get tough, take your toothbrush and go somewhere else.

What I want to do today is look at a story that is very painful, and very beautiful all at the same time. We will see that when there may be good reason for divorce, often times God has something different.

We are going to look at a couple named Hosea and Gomer. Hosea is the man and Gomer is the woman. Another horrible name! Gomer...I mean that's almost as bad as Hagar; not quite, Hagar is probably worse, but Gomer is pretty bad.

We are going to see a marriage that had every reason to end in divorce, but we are going to watch as God calls these people to something different. Let me give you the context.

What we are going to read took place 760 years before the birth of Christ. Jeroboam II was king of the northern kingdom of Israel, and they were enjoying a time of unprecedented prosperity. Sadly though, whenever there is economic *increase*, there's almost always moral and spiritual *decrease*; and that is what was going on here. So God raised up a prophet, named Hosea, to speak into the spiritual adultery and horrible sins of the people of the land. Hosea, Chapter 1:2-3 tells us; in the beginning it is a very unusual story.

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him,
God's going to ask him to do something that I just can't even imagine – God says:

“Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her,
The Hebrew word translated as 'promiscuous woman' can be translated as a harlot, or prostitute. God tells the prophet to go marry a very immoral woman. Why would God do that? He says:

for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim.

Her poor dad – he was always getting “Dibblaim.” So he married Gomer daughter of Dibblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. (Hosea 1:2-3, niv)

Okay, so let me start out by saying something really important, so make sure you hear this and write it down if you are taking notes: This is...

A story with *layers*.

Why in the world would God tell this budding young prophet to go marry a prostitute? This story is really hard to take and hard to understand. Trust me – it’s even harder to preach about! But it’s extremely helpful to realize that this story has layers upon layers. We are going to watch as one layer is a very literal story between Hosea and immoral Gomer. Then, we are going to see another layer, which is a picture of God. Just like Hosea is loving this immoral woman, God is loving the immoral people of Israel. That’s just like *another* layer which is God, who is loving *us* as we continue to reject and sin against Him. So throughout this whole story, there’s layers upon layers of meaning buried in this very disturbing and yet very beautiful marriage.

Now most of us can’t relate to Hosea and Gomer’s relationship. The Lord clearly told Hosea to go marry this woman. She not only had a checkered past, she had a horrible, sinful present. She had an extremely troubled life. Now we don’t know much about her; we don’t know what led her to that profession, but given the male-dominated culture of that time that we still see in much of the Middle East today, it isn’t hard to imagine. Women in that time amounted to material property with marital benefits. So the low status of women, the perspective that they were simply possessions, would make it easy to come to the conclusion she had been abused by men. But in the story, we see that somewhere along the line, this was a lifestyle that she *chose*.

Most of our marriages are not like Hosea and Gomer’s, but far too many of us can relate to the pain and heartbreak of marital infidelity. In all my years of pastoring and working with couples in counseling, I’ve never seen a couple just decide one day to get divorced. I’ve never seen someone in a marriage just decide one day out of the blue to commit adultery. Long before marriages divorce, they drift. They stop prioritizing each other, stop serving each other, and begin to think more about themselves than the other person. I’ll talk more about this next week. But couples drift apart and then one day something happens. An old boyfriend talks to her on Facebook. She goes down to the gym to try to get back in shape with a cute trainer who pays attention to her. There’s a woman in the office that laughs at his jokes and looks at him a little too long. She takes a part-time job, because finances are tight, and there’s a guy there that’s really nice. Something happens and the husband or wife believes the most common marriage misconception that there is, and she buys into the lie, or he believes that what I’m missing is better than what I have. I’ve got a pretty good guy here, but he’s not bringing me everything that I want. She’s nice and all, but she’s not giving me the thrill I want. Those things that I do not have are more important than the many things that I have. Now there’s nothing in the text to tell us that Hosea had drifted; in this case, it was all on her. I’ve seen that too many times, too. Years ago I was the pastor in a military town, and there was this saying, “What happens TDY, stays TDY.” “TDY” stands for

“temporary duty yonder.” Military people would have to go on a remote for three months to a year and couldn’t take their spouse. So everyone knew that whatever you had to do to keep your morale up was okay. Publicly the military wouldn’t condone it, but in practice they looked the other way – whatever it took to get your job done. And then if the husband was away enough times, the wife at home would justify messing around. There were guys on the base and even in the town that would wait for the next deployment and then swoop in on their buddies’ lonely wives left at home.

So Gomer decides she wants to go back to her old life, and so in verse five we’re told,

“Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’” (Hosea 2:5, niv)

Sure enough, she goes back to these other men, and you can just feel the...

Rejection.

Gomer thinks, although this guy, he offers me so much, there are a few things he doesn’t offer me that someone else can. So, she does what people have done for centuries, they trade the 80 for the 20. One of the most foolish and most common trades there is. They trade the 80 for the 20. Let me explain what I mean. In a decent marriage, a person is going to provide and meet about 80% of your needs and expectations; no one is going to meet 100%. It just isn’t humanly possible. If you want to set someone up for failure, look to them to meet all of your needs and expectations. No one can. This guy is delivering at about 80%, but yet there is this 20% that he is incapable of delivering. And so, since she doesn’t have the 20%, she takes the 80% and trades it in for the 20% and ends up with far less than she had in the first place. I don’t know what 20% these other men offered. But sure enough, some other guy listened to her, or he complimented her. Or, maybe he bought her little gifts, or told her she was special. Or maybe he had a better income than this crazy prophet guy, and he promised her more things. In the man’s world, it could go like this: this other woman at work, she thinks I’m cool. I mean, she doesn’t tear me down all of the time and she laughs at my corny jokes, and she enjoys watching sports with me and we have these things in common. Let’s just be honest, she’s more exciting than my wife. They trade in the 80 for the 20, and end up with less than they had in the first place. They believe the lie that what I’m missing is better than what I have. When you do that, you are trading the 80 for the 20. For years you think that the grass is greener somewhere else. But listen, whenever the grass looks greener somewhere else, it’s time to water your own yard! If it looks better somewhere else, it’s only because you can’t smell the dog poop in the other yard! You get close and you are going to find some poop over there too! What is missing is not better than what you have, if you will invest in what you have! What could you possibly gain that is better than the years of faithfulness you have to one another, and the children that you had together? And yet, it’s so, so common, because life happens, the luster wears off, and we start to believe the lie that what I’m missing is better than what I have.

Gomer went out, met these other guys, and got pregnant and had these kids. She had a daughter named Lo-ruhamah. God actually told Hosea to name this daughter, Lo-ruhamah;

her name means “unpitied, unloved, or not loved by the true father.” Now remember the layers in this story I told you about? These names were actually revealing the hurt that God has when we reject him and his love and pursue lesser things. God is feeling the rejection from his people even more painfully than Hosea is. Keep that in mind.

Then Gomer went out and found another guy and got pregnant with a son, and God said; “Call him Lo-ammi,” which means “no kin of mine, not related to me.” You can start to hear the hurt that God has when His people are rejecting Him over and over and over again. If you’ve ever been cheated on, you know the pain. God felt cheated on. God felt like His people were committing spiritual adultery. If you read through this book, it’s really painful to watch God hurt, and this is what He does. He hurts, and I could try to spin it and make it look like what it’s not; but, honestly, God kind of throws a fit. He really does. You can read it – He’s angry, He’s hurt, He’s jealous; and He has every right to be, because He is God, and He wants all of our hearts.

So let’s just divert a little bit from the marriage part of this and let’s look at God’s heart. God shows His two responses to spiritual adultery, because quite honestly, there are some today who are sinning grievously against God. What you read in this story – this is how our sin makes Him feel. His first response, if you are taking notes, is He has this very righteous anger. There is such a thing as unrighteous anger, and there is such a thing as righteous anger. This is God speaking of the people of Israel and He says this in Hosea 2:8-10, He says:

She (God is referring to his people Israel, and it applies to us) has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold—which they used for Baal. “Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linen, intended to cover her naked body. So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands. (Hosea 2:8-10, niv)

Can’t you see...

God’s pain and anger... ?

You can hear God’s hurt, you can hear God’s jealousy; don’t forget God said clearly, “I’m a jealous God, you can have no other gods before me. You have no idols, you worship me and me alone.” He can say that because He’s God, He has every right to ask for that. God knows how good He is, and how foolish we are for rejecting Him, and it hurts Him, it makes Him angry. He says, “Give me your heart and your love.” Then you can almost hear Him saying, “You know what? You want to do life without me, let’s see how it is. You want to go do life without me? Go do it and see how you like it!” I can almost sense that God may do that with marriages today. God may say, you know what? You want to do marriage without me? Do it! See how it works out! Go and put idols at the front of your life and not me! Go and do marriage without my Word and my presence! You want to see how it goes? Try it!

Isn’t that the way many people are living today? Then, look at what God says next because there’s a sense of possessiveness; he’s saying, “Nobody’s going to steal her from me!” We

may struggle with our anger when we are in pain, but there's a time where there's a righteous anger. God has it; God's not sinning when he's angry. If you've been betrayed in your marriage, you know that anger and pain: "We made a vow before God, and you broke it and I'm not happy about it." That's not always an unrighteous stance. And there can be even some possessiveness with this, which is: "When I said a vow to God, I meant it, and I am going to fight for this thing. I don't care what the other man or the other woman is doing, I don't care where they are, I don't care if they are out, I'm in! No one is taking this away from me!"

I'm not saying it's okay to be controlling or abusive – the Bible is very clear that in our anger we should not sin. But it's okay to not want to give up on your marriage.

Sadly, in our society today we have been trained to think, "Well, it's difficult, so let's do what we've done 18 times before which is, take our toothbrush and go somewhere else." When actually God might say, "Just because you do have grounds for divorce, it doesn't mean you give up that easily. Fight for this thing." When I say, "fight," of course I don't mean in an abusive way. And you need to put this in the context of what we talked about last week.

So in our passage, God responds with this righteous anger. But, here's the deal; we are not going to get very far if we always stay angry. If you read this story, there is this beautiful and very sudden shift in God's response. I mean, it's sudden. He's angry, and then boom! As fast as He is angry, He shows a second response, and that is a very, very definite unfailing love. God displays pain and anger...

...and ***unrelenting*** love.

A righteous anger, and an unfailing love. Here is the shift, it happens in verses 14-15, He says:

Therefore I am now going to allure her; *listen to the language – it's beautiful!*
Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her...*the most dry place, where there's nothing else for her to depend on but me.* There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. (Hosea 2:14-15, niv)

Notice that phrase, "I will make the valley of Achor a door of hope."

From ***Achor*** to ***hope***.

If you've got your Bible open in front of you, you might circle the word Achor and write next to it the word, "trouble," because that's what it means. Very literally what it means. I will make the valley of trouble into a door of hope. I will make the valley of trouble, a door of hope. Did you know, there are basically two ways to have a great marriage? Way number one, is do everything right. It works, I promise! Just don't sin! Do it right! Way number two is to walk through the Valley of Achor together, until you find the door of hope. What does that mean? You don't always do everything right. You might sin, you might mess up, maybe

you disrespect or reject one another, *but you repent*, you return to God, you cry together, you hug, you apologize, you cry some more, you let God break off some of your rough edges, you make Him conform your mind to the mind of Christ, you conform your heart to the heart of Christ and you do the work.

Or even if you don't mess up, life does. I *promise* you, life will get hard, and it will test your marriage. But you walk through the valley of trouble, and on the other side, when you walk through together, there is always a door of hope. Some of the best marriages I know walk through the valley of betrayal, walk through the valley of adultery, walk through the valley of pornography, walk through the valley of rejection, walk through the valley of deceit, walk through the valley of a teenage child's rejection, or walk through the valley of death and when they walk through it together, with God leading the way, they always come to the door of hope. Here's the deal, I promise you; some of you, you're married, but you've given up on it. If you will continue to pursue God, especially if both of you will; if both of you will pursue God, I promise you, you will always walk through the Valley of Achor to the door of hope.

Now I know, the challenge is that sometimes you are with someone that is not going to walk with you. So, what do you do then? Just decide that you are going to walk alone, with your hand out, ready to accept your spouse, whenever your spouse is ready to join you. But, you are not letting go of God. You are not letting go of God.

Some of you right now, you are in the Valley of Achor, and you just can't have any hope. I am telling you, there is always hope with God. There's always hope with Him.

I told you this was going to be tough, and it doesn't get any easier from here. This is a tough message. God's going to say the most amazing thing to this man who has been nothing but faithful, and been nothing but betrayed by this woman. If you fast forward in the story, what she's done is she's now left him, and he's shown his love to her again and again and again, he keeps taking her back and forgiving her, and she keeps going out prostituting herself again, which you can only imagine how horrible that would be. And the text even implies that she's got a pimp, or a manager basically; because as you read into it, she's full on into this business of prostituting herself. God gives a very clear, very challenging, and very profound message to the betrayed spouse, and here's what God says: I'm summarizing it, but he says, "I want you to forgive and love as you've been forgiven and loved."

If I'm going to be honest, you know what I'd probably think? Blow that girl off! Seriously, she's done that, you know what? She had her chance, you tried, blow her off, let her go.

But God told Hosea this, Hosea 3:1:

The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, (*again!*) though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods..." (Hosea 3:1, niv)

Can we pause for a moment and just ask the question, how in the world? How? If I'm in his shoes, how is that possible? How? I can't find that in my emotions. But God says here's how: "...Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods...." Love her, love her as God is loving *you and me* right now, even though we do not deserve it. Love her as

God is loving us, as we continue to worship the idols of this world. Love her as God continues to freely love us as we openly and consistently reject His goodness. How do you love and forgive? The same way that God has loved and forgiven us.

Now, this is getting to where we all live. There's no guarantees what Gomer's going to do. And there's no guarantees this marriage isn't going to end up in divorce. There are no guarantees that your marriage isn't going to end up in divorce. If you do everything right, there's no guarantees. But, even though we can't control the outcome, God is very, very clear on what we should do. That is, we should love and forgive as we've been loved and forgiven.

Now listen (1-2-3, all eyes on me!), what this also does NOT mean, it doesn't mean if you've forgiven the other person that you should be a door mat! It doesn't mean that if you're trying to reconcile, you don't bring some new rules to the game. It doesn't mean you don't make some changes. I'll talk more about this next week. Just because you've forgiven them doesn't mean you subject yourself to abuse. It doesn't mean you don't set boundaries. It doesn't mean that you just let someone walk all over you, but what it *does* mean is that no matter what your spouse does, you are going to choose to do what's right, even though there's no guarantees. That's a really hard part of this story. There's nothing easy about that. I promise you, when it gets tough, your friends around you are going to say, "Dump him, break it off, get divorced." That's what you've been trained to do anyway. But it may be that God would say, "It's not time to give up yet!" Marriage is really, really important. My goal is not to bring condemnation on those who have been divorced, and there are times when you are going to do everything right, and you are going to end up divorced. Maybe the other person wants to walk, or won't change their destructive behavior, or maybe it's just too much water that's gone under the bridge and you can't make water run upstream. But please: it doesn't mean you don't go down without trying to do the right thing to honor God.

These topics bring up a lot of emotion. I had some people come up to me saying, "Thanks for the series, but you just don't understand, Mike, you're married to Shelly, and you know, you guys don't have problems!" I just want to say, "Back that truck up!" Do you really think that we've had three boys together without the challenges that go with that? Do you think it's been smooth sailing for us? I told you that we spent three of the first four years of our youngest son's life not knowing if he was going to live or die from some life-stealing mystery disease he had. You don't think that strains a marriage? Most of you know that we've had three of our four parents die in the last three years, and we've had to manage so much of their losses and the finances and moving them and selling houses and burying them... If you think we don't go through stuff, you are insulting me. Do you really think that pastoring churches is easy? When we've led through all the changes and all the innovations, and all the criticism from some people, and all of the spiritual pressure, the times when people are sniping about me and blaming me for stuff (when many times what they're really doing is deflecting and projecting), and all of the weight of that, and the grueling schedule; do you really think that we've been through that all of these years, and it wasn't really hard on our marriage? Please don't insult us and pretend like we don't go through things. Here's what we've done; we've walked over and over and over again, through the Valley of Achor, over and over and over again, through the Valley of Achor; and *there has always been a door of hope.*

And I can tell you that I've had the privilege of helping so many marriages that were wrecked with betrayal and adultery, but they repented and turned to Christ and forgave and they went through the Valley of Achor to the door of hope.

Do you know how that is possible? It's called...

"Buying the prostitute."

Let me tell you the end of the story. God tells this prophet to go and pursue his very immoral wife and here's what he does, to go show his love again, this is what he does; he goes and takes his own money, and he purchases her out of prostitution. He pays for his wife; he buys the prostitute. Listen: that is *exactly* what God did for us. While we were prostituting ourselves against God, while we were still sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. He shed His blood to buy us back, so we could truly know His love.

Here's the thing about this story: we don't know how the marriage ended. There is no record of what she did. But I think that once he bought her back, how in the world could she ever walk away from him again? Because he loved her enough to purchase her out of her sin. Here's why I say that: because when I look at what God did for us through Christ, I ask the same question; how could we not offer Him our whole lives? When you see what He did for us, then you can see why He wants all of our hearts, and you can see why His heart breaks when we continue to commit spiritual adultery against Him; because He said, "I gave it all for you, and I want all of you. I want your heart, I want your worship, all of your faithfulness, I want you to lay down your life and know me and serve me forever." When you see what He did, what other kind of response could we have? I'm the prostitute. So are you.

God, do a work in a way that only you can do. God, I acknowledge the layers of pain and all of the different emotions and hurt and confusion, and I pray there would be a sense of hope.

As you're praying today with your head bowed in a posture of humility and prayer, let me just ask very broadly, in any area of your life, it could be relationally, it could be spiritually, it could be financially, it could be emotionally, it could be any number of things. How many of you would say, "Right now, I feel like I'm in the Valley of Achor?" If that's you, just raise your hands right now.

God, I pray for those who are in that valley, or those who are going to be. God, I pray that your presence would be so real, even as you promise us in the 23rd Psalm, that we will walk through the valley of the shadow of death and we will fear no evil, because you are with us God. The valley of the shadow of death, the Valley of Achor, the valley of desperation, the valley of depression, the valley of rejection, the valley of the struggling marriage, the valley of financial hardship, the valley of fear, the valley of self-doubts, the valley of guilt. God, we turn or return to you. God, teach us to put our faith in you, not in another person, not in our own ideas, not in our own ability to manipulate, or to get our desired outcome, but to put our faith in you. God as you meet us in the desert to speak tenderly to us; God, give us the faith in the valley, that no matter what we endure, there is always a door of hope. God, for those who have given up on their marriages, God I pray for

a door of hope. We know there's no guarantee it's going to work out, but give them a door of hope, give them a door of hope.

As you keep praying today, some of you, you know what? You may be in a valley right now, and this may be a purposeful valley. This is what's crazy about God, He loves you so much, that when your sin takes you into the desert, he'll use it to get your attention! If you are in the desert, He is speaking tenderly to you. Some of you right now, you are in the desert, you are in the valley because of your sin. You don't know where else to turn. Guess what? He's speaking to you, He's alluring you, He's reaching out to you. Here's what He's saying, He's saying, "I love you so much, I'm willing to purchase you out. I love you so much, that I sent my Son, Jesus, for you. You can't get out yourself, you can't overcome your sin yourself. I sent Jesus to do for you, what you could never do for yourself. I loved you that much, I sent my Son, Jesus; who shed innocent blood for the forgiveness of your sin, that if you call on Him, you will be saved, you will be forgiven, you will be transformed. I will lead you through the valley, into a door of hope. The door of hope is Christ. Jesus said, "I am the door through which all men enter." He is the way, He is the truth, He is the life. It's time for you to truly call on Jesus.

Let me just ask you, you may believe in Him, maybe you've been around the church a long time, but is He truly first? Can God say that he's got all of you? Because that's what He wants, and He has a right to ask for it. When you call on Jesus, it's everything. Not just a selfish, keep me out of hell prayer, not just a fix my mess so I can go out and make another one...that's a selfish prayer. What we are talking about is full surrender; "Jesus, I give you my whole life." It's finally time to surrender completely to Him.

All of us, let's pray together, everybody pray aloud. Pray after me:

Heavenly Father,
I am a sinner
who needs a Savior.
Jesus, save me,
change me,
make me new,
lead me through the valley
to the door of hope,
you are my hope of a new life.
I believe you died for me,
so I could live for you.
I give you all of my life.
Fill me with your Spirit
That I might fully live my life
Like Jesus.

Thank you for new life,
now you have mine.
In Jesus' Name I pray,
Amen!

Please stand.

Today we looked at a very difficult marriage. Next week we will look at what it takes to have a healthy marriage.

Go from this place knowing that you are the prostitute, and God has bought you back. Let that knowledge make a difference in every relationship you have, especially your marriage.