



HOSEA

BIBLE TEXT | HOSEA 12:10-14

10 I spoke to the prophets; it was I who multiplied visions, and through the prophets gave parables. **11** If there is iniquity in Gilead, they shall surely come to nothing: in Gilgal they sacrifice bulls; their altars also are like stone heaps on the furrows of the field. **12** Jacob fled to the land of Aram; there Israel served for a wife, and for a wife he guarded sheep. **13** By a prophet the Lord brought Israel up from Egypt, and by a prophet he was guarded. **14** Ephraim has given bitter provocation; so his Lord will leave his bloodguilt on him and will repay him for his disgraceful deeds.

DEVOTIONAL FOR HOSEA 12:10-14

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How do you present things before God? As I read through chapter after chapter of Hosea, I continue to see God just wanting His people to repent, not in a way of what is being offered, but how it is offered.

That brings me to my early twenties. I thought I was following after the Lord but all I used the Lord for was emergencies. I prayed occasionally and went to church, but abiding and truly desiring the Lord was not something I longed for. That's how I see Israel. God is saying don't try and fool me, you were once in Egypt because of sin. I am the one who brought you out of Egypt. Only when we are living, serving, and walking in His power are we going to be able to come to Him in a way that pleases Him (1 John 1:5-7). If we come before Him offering something that's in our own strength and in our own wisdom, it won't have the characteristics and spiritual qualities that only truth can bring about.

This is a choice the Israelites are making. It's not that they don't know better or know God, it's being done with deceit. When I look up the word "deceit" it says "the action or practice of deceiving someone by concealing or misrepresenting the truth". It makes me think of James 1:7-8 "For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." A double-minded man is restless and



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confused in his thoughts, actions, and behavior. Always in conflict with himself. We are called to have a faith spoken of in Hebrews 11:1. We cannot be both certain and doubting, that is not of the Lord.

God wants to get Israel back to the place where they once were, living for Him. He is wanting to show us, above all things, that repentance leads us to worship Him. He wants us to rely fully on His perfect word, His perfect way, and His perfect will! Friends, may we see how important abiding and fully putting our trust and hope in our perfect and sovereign God truly is.

Questions:

1. How do you bring your struggles to the Lord?
2. In what areas of your life are you conforming into patterns of the world instead of the Lord?
3. Are there ways you could be more open and honest in your Journey Group? Confess that to them. Or if you are in need of community please email us at pastoroffice@stonepointchurch.com