

MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS

The Minor Prophets Series #2

October 25th, 2026

TEXT: Hosea 3:1-5

CONSIDER THIS: Have you ever looked at someone else's problems, problems that they created for themselves by their poor decisions, and determined not to make similar mistakes? Hosea is filled with lessons we dare not ignore!

I. HOSEA'S TROUBLED MARRIAGE

- A) Hosea and Gomer were real people and their marriage was very real (Hosea 1:2-3). God used their marriage to portray His relationship with Israel and His sorrow of having an ungrateful, unfaithful "spouse" (the northern kingdom of Israel/Ephraim).
- B) In 3:1 it is evident that the marriage had broken up after the birth of the third child (1:8-9). Gomer had given herself to another man and is now referred to as "a woman" rather than as "your wife" (The ESV translation correctly drops the word wife). In the Jewish culture of that day Gomer had abandoned all that was decent and was living in open adultery. Her sin was not a momentary loss of virtue leading to poor decision, she totally gave herself over to a perpetual sin and betrayed her husband.

And the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the children of Israel... (3:1)

- C) The highest form of love is a choice/decision of the will and not a mere emotion. Hosea had lost his feelings for Gomer, but in 3:1 God commanded him to love her again.

Our culture today mistakenly treats emotions/feelings as the basis of marriage... a recipe for disaster.

II. THE HIGH COST OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

NOTE: In many of the wedding ceremonies I have officiated as a pastor, I have cautioned the couple that they will find that what will be required to keep their vows is "a costly love".

- A) "So I bought her..." (3:2) Was this a gift to Gomer or her family, or had she become a slave in need of redemption? It is more likely that she had fallen into a destitute state of prostitution (a form of slavery) and needed to be purchased out of her condition. Either way, loving Gomer came at a cost to Hosea, a price he willingly paid in order to redeem her.
- B) The price was equivalent to 30 pieces of silver (15 pieces of silver combined with a good-sized portion of barley). Wow! Thirty pieces of silver was
 1. the price of a slave (Exodus 21:32)

2. the price for which Jesus was betrayed (Matthew 23:14-16)
3. the price Israel placed on Jesus's worth (Zechariah 11:12-13)

C) Hosea also paid a price emotionally. To choose to love Gomer was not easy, but it was right because it was what God called him to do.

III. THE LORD RESTORES HIS PEOPLE

- A) Hosea 3:3 are Hosea's words to his redeemed wife, Gomer, but they are used by God to prophesy about Israel's future in 3:4-5.
1. A time of judgement upon idolatrous Israel which ended in destruction by the Assyrian empire in 722 B.C. Hosea 4-14 goes into detail of Israel's judgement and future restoration.
 2. God's love is wise, so it includes consequences and correction (Hosea 11:1-7), and His love is unchanging, so it brings about restoration (11:8-11). Amazing!

NOTE: These chapters will be fulfilled in the future in conjunction with Jesus Christ's second coming and Israel's embracing Jesus as the Messiah.

B) Jesus is in Hosea!

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God, AND DAVID THEIR KING, and they shall come in fear to the LORD and to His goodness IN THE LATTER DAYS (3:5)

KEY: King David had died 250 years earlier. This is a reference to King Jesus, the Son of David (Matthew 1:1)

IV. MINOR PROPHETS, MAJOR LESSONS (FOR US) (14:9)

- A) How much of Israel do I see in my own heart? Have I grown comfortable with idols in my life? Remember, an idol can be something that is good (a relationship, a goal, a hobby, a career, a possession) but takes the place of God. Idolatry is always about the human heart. Do I lack gratitude? Genuine gratitude towards God is always transformative in our lives.

The human heart is like a throne. The throne is always occupied with someone or something. But rightfully it should only be occupied by God. Life is best when God occupies the throne of our heart.

- B) Christian, you are loved with a costly love. I Corinthians 13 is often called "the great love chapter." It is often read at weddings because it seems like a perfect description of the ideal marriage. However, it has a far more foundational meaning. It is the *agape* love Jesus took to the cross.

Christian, God will NEVER say of you,
"He/she costs too much to love."
He deserves your loyalty!

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