



The Prophet Hosea

Week 2 — March 21/22, 2015

Big Idea... A story for the wayward and a living illustration of the process of restoration available to all who have walked away from God.

Opening... What do you think it means to idolize a person or object?

Read... Hosea 4:10-13; 5:4

Infidelity: *Turning away and being unfaithful*

- ◆ Why did God consider idolatry to be like prostitution?
- ◆ What were these people substituting for God?
- ◆ How do you give power to substitutes rather than commit to trust in God?
- ◆ How do you know when you are trusting God and placing Him first in your life?

Read... Hosea 6:1-6

Repentance: *The act of returning*

- ◆ What kind of response is God seeking from us?
- ◆ What does God promise as we return to Him?
- ◆ How do you respond to the following quote?

The greatest temptation is to use our many failures and disappointments to convince ourselves that we are really not worth being loved...But for a person of faith the opposite is true. The many failures may open that place where we have nothing to brag about but everything to be loved for. Henri Nouwen

Let's practice...

Read... Colossians 3:5-10

- ◆ What words or phrases stand out to you? Why those?
- ◆ What does God promise in this passage?
- ◆ What disciplines help you "rid yourselves of all such things as these?"

"Followers of Christ are urged to live lives worthy of their calling. God has redeemed His children from their former empty lives that were characterized by darkness, ignorance, and impurity. Disciples are now empowered by His Spirit and commanded to be holy as God is holy."

Way of Discipleship, Practice of Moral Integrity

Sketch a figure to represent yourself. Next to the head, write down what you think about most. Next to the heart, name things claiming your emotional energy. Next to the hands, name a few projects or activities presently occupying most of your time. Do your answers portray more of an idol or Disciple? Share in what ways you are content and concerned with this picture.

Prayer...

Lord, help us return to You and receive Your redemption. Restore our relationship with You and help us follow You with moral integrity. In Jesus' name, Amen.