

February 16, 2014 Sermon Application Handout

“Sowing the Wind”

Hosea 8-10

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you this week to sow godliness, righteousness, and holiness into your life. Confess any idols or hindrances that are getting in the way of true love and loyalty to the Lord. Thank God for His steadfast love toward you.
2. Read Hosea 8-10 and make some general observations. What are some key phrases or statements that seem similar to what has already been written? How do chapters 9 and 10 describe Israel’s sin and God’s judgment of exile? How might Hosea’s repetition serve as a warning to Israel and Judah? How might his repetitive message be important for the believer today (cf. 2 Peter 1:12; 3:1)?

II. Remember to Keep Your P _____ (Hos 8:1c)

3. What does Hosea say in Hosea 8:1 to jar the hearer out of their complacency? What picture is being depicted in this verse?
4. What was the reason Hosea needed to get Israel’s attention? What had they done?
5. Review Hosea 4:1 and 6:7. Remind yourself of the charges that God was bringing against Israel. What had they broken? How does God feel about this particular issue (cf. Hosea 10:4; Eccl 5:4; Matthew 5:7)?

6. What about you? Does loyalty matter to you? In other words, when you make a promise such as signing a contract or promising to do something for someone else, do you honor the requirements? When you give your word, do you keep it? If not why not? Would it make a difference if you knew that every promise you make to any person is also a promise you are making to God Himself? What hinders you from remembering to keep your promises?

III. Remember to Obey God's I _____ (Hosea 1d)

7. In addition to transgressing God's covenant, what else had Israel forgotten? What is the difference between the two? Why are both aspects important in understanding Israel's sin (Hosea 4:2, 6, 11, 14; 12:7)?
8. Read Luke 6:46; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22; and 1 John 3:9. Why does the Lord have an expectation that His children will obey Him? What do they now have that wasn't evident before? What have they been saved for?
9. What about you? Do you see a pattern of obedience in your life? Is there a striving after holiness? Is there a desire for confession and repentance when you sin? Are you becoming like Christ over time? List out some examples.

IV. Remember to Cultivate Your Relationship with G _____ (Hosea 8:2-4a)

10. According to verses 2-4, what else had Israel forgotten (Hosea 4:1; 5:4; 8:14)? What had they rejected? What does this tell you that God wants from His people (cf. Hosea 6:6)?

11. What happens when a believer neglects to pursue, ignores, or becomes apathetic towards God? What do you think their view of God will end up as? What will be their view of His Word? Who might they be taking their cues from (See Psalm 1)? What are they in danger of becoming more and more like—the world or Christ?
12. What had God warned Israel about should they refuse to pursue, ignore, and become apathetic toward God (cf. Deuteronomy 4:9)?
13. List out some practical ways you can keep your soul diligently and not lose sight of God's instructions (see Deuteronomy 6:10-12 and 12:11-18 to help you develop your answer).

V. Remember to Trust God A _____ (Hosea 8:4b-6)

14. According to Hosea 8:4-6, what is at the heart of their betrayal (cf. Hosea 1:2, 4:17; 6:10; Jer. 2:13)? Is this something isolated to just ethnic Israel (cf. 1 Cor. 10:14)?
15. Martin Luther wrote, "I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust be right, then is your God also true; and, on the other hand, if your trust be false and wrong, then you have not the true God; for these two belong together faith and God. That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.¹" Take time to examine your heart right now and filter it through the following questions:
 - What is it that you turn to in time of need?
 - What is it that you believe will bring you satisfaction?

¹ Luther, Martin. *The Large Catechism, III Part First, The First Commandment*. Concordia: St. Louis, 1921, p. 565.

16. Read the verses below. What does God's Word instruct you to do about idolatry? What is at the root of idolatry? What is the answer to idolatrous desire?

- Colossians 3:5

- Colossians 3:15-16

- Philippians 4:11-13

VI. Remember You Sow What You R_____ (Hosea 8:7)

17. According to verse 7, what had Israel reaped as they pursued everything but God? What does this symbolize?

18. Read Galatians 6:7-8. What happens when a man sows to his own flesh? What will his life be like (Prov. 13:15)?

19. Read the following verses and list out the consequences Israel faced for sowing to their flesh:

- Hosea 9:3
- Hosea 9:6
- Hosea 9:15
- Hosea 10:10
- Hosea 10:15

20. The sowing and reaping principle are true whether you are a Christian or not. According to Hosea 10:12, how should a child of God sow?

21. What are some practical steps you can take this week to sow godliness, holiness, and a loyal love for God into your life? List out one person whom you can ask to hold you accountable.

“Christ did not die to forgive sinners who go on treasuring anything above seeing and savoring God. And people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were not there, will not be there. The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It's a way of overcoming every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel.”

— [John Piper, *God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself*](#)

RESOURCES

Specific Resources for Hosea

Hosea by Derek Kidner

Hosea: the Heart and Holiness of God by G. Campbell Morgan

With Bands of Love by David Allan Hubbard

General Resources for the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr

The Ultimate Priority on Worship by John MacArthur

Knowing God by J.I. Packer