

Sermon Discussion 11/29/2015

Hosea 6:4 – 9:17 “Sin, Judgment, and the Cross” by Aaron Lewis

Overview

This dark section of the book of Hosea makes it clear that God’s chosen people had completely abandoned Him and had provoked His anger. Hosea outlines the Israelites’ sinful behaviors and the pending judgment they should expect. Hosea outlines Israel’s sins as follows:

1. The scope of Israel’s sin (6:4 – 7:16)
2. The danger of delusion (8:1-14)
3. The radical reversal of Israel’s redemption story (9:1-17)

We are tempted to cast a disapproving glance at the Israelites; a sinful lot worthy of God’s judgment! Yet, the message Hosea delivered should stand as a warning is each of us as we examine our own lives and the culture in which we live.

Quotations

“The Gospel is this; we are more sinful and flawed in ourselves that we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time, we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ that we ever dared hope.” - Tim Keller

“Repentance is to joy what Good Friday is to Easter.” - John Piper

“Till sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.” - Thomas Watson, *The Doctrine of Repentance*, 63

Understanding & Application

- 1) Hosea uses seven analogies for Israel’s sinful nature.
 - a. Sins against the covenant – Morning mist/dew (6:4), oven (7:4-7)
 - b. Sins of misplaced security – Cake (7:8), dove (7:11-12), crying out/wailing (7:14)
 - c. Sins of self-reliance – Old man (7:9), faulty bow (7:15-16)

What do each of these mean and which have the most significance to you?

- 2) It is easy to point to this section of Hosea and be thankful we are not ‘like those Israelites’. Why is this a dangerous practice? What in verse 6:7 makes this point?
- 3) What is meant by ‘the danger of delusion’? How were the Israelites delusional? Do you think it was possible for the Israelites to actually think God was pleased with them?
- 4) How are we delusional today? Is God pleased with us?
- 5) Hosea chapter 9 outlines Israel’s loss of identity because of their horrific, sinful behavior towards God. In what practical ways had Israel lost its identity?
- 6) What are implications for our lives? Is it possible that we are as sinful, in God’s eyes, as were the Israelites?
- 7) What practical steps can we take to address our own sinful behaviors?