

Redeeming Love Hosea 2:14-3:5

“God’s mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow, than to diminish the great mercy of God.”

-Charles Spurgeon

I. The Promise

II. The Picture

Into the Bible

1. God's pursuit of Israel despite her faithlessness is pictured in chapter 3 of Hosea. Hosea must even pay a price to buy her back (redeem) his wife from those who hold her in sin. How does this mirror the story of our salvation? What is the price of our redemption? (Ezekiel 34:16, Jeremiah 31:3, Luke 19:10, 1 Peter 2:9, 1Peter 1:18-19)
2. The Hebrew word in verse 2:19 translated as "lovingkindness" is used hundreds of times in the Old Testament. It covers the same ideas as the New Testament use of mercy and grace. One author describes it this way:

We can think of mercy as the withholding of deserved punishment, or as an act of pity towards someone who is disadvantaged, afflicted, or suffering in some way through no fault of his own. And then the biblical concept of grace involves kindness and the free giving of benefits or help that is not necessarily due.

How do the following verses further develop this aspect of God's character towards us?

Exodus 34:6-7

Psalm 86:15

Psalm 145:8-9

Micah 7:18-19

Application

3. In the New Testament, grace and mercy are to be evidenced in our lives as those who have received both from God himself. How should this affect our behavior towards others? (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Colossians 3:12-14, James 2:13)

For Families

4. Talk with your children about God's mercy and grace.