

Sin, Slavery, & Salvation

Hosea 9-12

Nothing humbles and breaks the heart of a sinner like mercy and love. Souls that converse much with sin and wrath, may be much terrified; but souls that converse much with grace and mercy, will be much humbled.

-Thomas Brooks

I. A Faithless People

II. A Father's Love

Into the Bible

1. In Hosea 10 God tells Israel that He will take away their king. Doing so will remove their identity as a sovereign nation, fulfilled when they were carried into slavery by Assyria. Originally, a king for the Jews was not the plan, but in 1 Samuel 8:19-21 the people demanded that Samuel appoint for them a king so they could be “like all the other nations”. When the kingship is restored to Israel, how does the character of that king compare with the northern kingdom’s sorry examples of earthly leadership? (Isaiah 9:6-7, John 18:36, Daniel 7:14)

Application

2. Referencing the Exodus from Egypt in Hosea 11, God declared he loved Israel “as a youth”—this was the time of the patriarchs when the Hebrews were still learning who their God was. In one of the tenderest pictures in the Old Testament, God says in Hosea 11:3 that he taught them to walk by, as a father, holding their arms up as they struggled to learn. Their continued rebellion was now causing Him to send them back into slavery and captivity. Amazingly in Numbers 11:4-6 the Israelites griped about eating manna and openly wanted to return to bondage in Egypt where at least they ate well. Like them we sometimes pursue bondage rather than freedom. What are those things that we find attractive in our life before Christ that draw us away from Him? (Romans 6:6, Galatians 5:1, 1 John 2:15-17)

3. How should we serve and live for a God who paradoxically is absolutely righteous and just, yet infinite in His mercy? How does Christ's sacrifice on our behalf exemplify the character of this God revealed in passages like Exodus 34:6-7, Psalm 85:10, and Romans 3:22-26?

For Families

4. Talk with your children about God's mercy in providing Christ.