Hosea Takes Gomer Back

Hosea 3:1-5

By

Charles Box
Hosea Takes Gomer Back

by

Charles Box

Text:

Hosea 3:1-5,

1. The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."
2. So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethen of barley.
3. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."
4. For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.
5. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

Introduction:

I. Gomer has gone back to her life of prostitution.

A. This must have brought great grief to Hosea and to their children.

1. God told Hosea to, "Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD
toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine."

2. Gomer is being sold as a slave.

3. Hosea goes to the slave market and buys her back with silver and barley.

4. He paid the price of a female slave to purchase his own wife back.

5. He said, "So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley." (Hosea 3:2)

II. Hosea redeemed his wife.

A. In a beautiful scene Hosea took Gomer from the slave market saying, "Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee." (Hosea 3:3)

B. This is a beautiful picture of how God will redeem Israel.

1. This is an amazing picture of redemption.

2. The picture God gave was a warning as to what sin did to them and of how beautiful redemption would be.

3. He said, "the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David
their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days." (Hosea 3:4-5)

The Ugliness of Sin

Hosea 3:1-5, The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lehek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you." For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

I. When preachers begin to talk about sin some get angry and others mourn its ugliness.

A. Gomer had proven herself to be an unfaithful wife to the prophet of God.

B. Israel had become unfaithful to the Lord and committed spiritual adultery.

II. The picture of sin is always ugly.

A. In every age and among every people sin has existed.

B. There have always been things recognized as right or wrong.
C. As far back as 2 Chronicles 6:36 the Bible says, "There is no man which sinneth not."

D. We see in Gomer that sin is the opposite of love, obedience and righteousness.

1. In Romans 6:16-18 the Bible says of those that had become Christians, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (NIV)

II. The effect of sin is horrible devastation.

A. One look at Gomer or at the nation of Israel verifies that truth.

B. Sin separates people from God.

1. Isaiah wrote, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:1-2)

C. Sin extracts a very high price.

1. The Bible says, "The way of the transgressor is hard." (Proverbs 13:15)

2. Sin is the means by which death entered the world.
a. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Romans 5:12)

IV. Hosea understood first hand the misery brought into the world by evil.

A. The consequences of sin are horrible for individuals and for nations.

The Beauty of Love

Hosea 3:1-5, The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you." For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

I. The love of Hosea for Gomer was an amazing thing.

A. The love of God for Israel was even more amazing.

1. Love is revealed by our actions.
B. God told Hosea to “Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine."

C. Was he able to love this woman?

1. Observe his actions, “So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley."

2. We are even allowed to hear his words of love, "Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot, and thou shalt not be for another man: so will I also be for thee." (Hosea 3:2-3)

3. Love is not merely an emotion. Love demands actions.

4. Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.' (John 14:15)

D. Even though Gomer did not love Hosea, He loved God and "Love obeys."

1. Love just keeps on walking in God's will.

   a. Hosea loved Gomer.

   b. It was very painful to him to have his love rejected by his own wife.

E. It was terribly painful to God to have His love rejected by Israel.
1. Nothing is more painful to the loving person than to have his love rejected.

The Power of Redemption

Hosea 3:1-5, The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lehek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you." For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

I. The idea of redemption is similar to the practice of purchasing a slave and then allowing him to go free.

A. It implies the payment of a price was made.

1. Gomer was redeemed at the slave market by Hosea for "fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley." (Hosea 3:2)

B. Today our redemption is in Christ.

1. Paul wrote, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2:10)
2. The price that was paid for our redemption was the precious blood of Jesus.

3. Peter wrote, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:18-19)

4. Just as Hosea gave his money to ransom Gomer from the slave market Jesus gave His blood to ransom us from sin.

5. He said, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

6. The ransom price was Christ Himself.

7. Paul wrote of Jesus, "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." (1 Timothy 2:6)

8. The concept of redemption by blood is difficult for some to understand.

9. Satan has taken advantage of that and has used false teachers to ridicule the idea of salvation by the precious blood of Jesus.

10. It was absolutely necessary for Jesus to shed His blood for the remission of our sins.
The Joy of Reconciliation

Hosea 3:1-5, The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you." For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days. (NIV)

I. Gomer provides a vivid picture of how Israel had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

A. God is righteous; He cannot condone sin.

1. However, He also gave them a promise of redemption for Israel.

2. "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days." (Hosea 3:5)

3. This verse also looked to the day that God accomplished reconciliation by sending His own Son to atone for our sins.

4. God reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ.
5. The great word "reconciliation" has the meaning of to "reunite after separation."

   a. This is what happened with Hosea and Gomer.

   b. This reconciliation happened with God and Israel.

   c. Reconciliation between God and sinners can now take place by the precious blood of Jesus.

   d. He paid the price for our sins so God could forgive us without violating His own righteousness.

**Conclusion:**

I. Today is the day when we should seriously consider God's goodness in providing redemption.

II. Will you not receive Christ as your Lord and Savior this day?
Questions

Hosea 3:1-5

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. The _______________ said to _______________, “Go, show your _______________ to your _______________ again, though she is _______________ by _______________ and is an _______________. _______________ her as the _______________ _______________ the _______________, though they turn to other _______________ and love the _______________ _______________ _______________.”

2. So I _______________ her for _______________ _______________ of _______________ and about a _______________ and a _______________ of barley.

3. What is an homer?  What is telhek?  How big is an homer as to measure? ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. _______________ found herself in a _______________. _______________ bought her back by paying the price of a _______________ _______________ for her.
5. Our country is filled with *slaves to sin*. What is meant by this statement? _________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

6. Define *love flagons of wine* and *sacred raisin cakes*. How were they used? _____________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

7. Then I told her, “You are to __________________ with me many ________________; you must not be a __________________ or be ___________________ with any ___________________ and I will __________________ with you.”

8. Explain the meaning of verse 4. What are sacred stones, teraphim and ephods? _____________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________

9. Afterward the __________________ will __________________ and
   __________________ the __________________ their _______________ and
   __________________ their ___________________. They will come
   __________________ to the __________________ and to his
   __________________ in the __________________.”

10. Define *last days* as used in verse 5.

11. How are the relationships between Hosea and Gomer, God and Israel, Jesus and us comparable?

12. How could Hosea love Gomer? How could God love Israel? How could Jesus love us?

13. _______________ is the _______________ of _______________, _______________ and _______________.

14. Tell, as best you can, how ugly sin really is.
20. How can you recognize love when you see it? 

21. The idea of _______________ is similar to the _______________ of 
______________ a _______________ and then _______________ him to _______________ _______________.

22. Have you been redeemed? If so, by what have you been redeemed? 
If you have not been redeemed, why not? ________________

23. _______________ is _______________; He cannot _______________ _______________.

24. _______________ between _______________ and _______________ can now take place by the _______________ _______________ of _______________.

25. _______________ has the meaning of to _______________ after _______________.
