

Hos 3.1-5—Hope For Exiles

Ruinous Sin, vv.1-2

- I. Things have not turned out well for Gomer since she left Hosea.
 - A. She's been intimate with another man, even with many men.
 - B. She's still a married woman, which means her adulterous actions deserve death, Lev 20.10.
 - C. Her sinful choices have backfired because she's up for sale at a slave market, Pr 20.17. She's become the property of one of her illicit lovers, who's clearly done with her.
 - D. Given the half-price Hosea paid for her, she's in terrible shape and someone just wants to get rid of her, Ex 21.32. She's become practically worthless.
- II. Gomer's experience is a clear picture of the way sin works.
 - A. So sweet at first, but so very bitter in the end. So promising out of the gate, but so very disappointing afterward.
 - B. Sin's wage is death. It pays its clients with misery, shame, humiliation, and suffering. It says it'll give, but it only takes.
- III. What's it going to take for us to believe the Lord when He tells us that His Commandments are for our good, Dt 12.28?
 - A. In Lk 17.32, Christ tells us to "Remember Lot's wife." Here He's telling us to "Remember Hosea's wife." Nothing good can ever come of turning our backs on the Lord our God.

Redeeming Love, vv.1-5

- I. Hosea goes to the market and buys Gomer back.
 - A. The price he paid for her shows the shameful and worthless condition in which he found her.
 - B. Hosea's purchase of his wife is the fruit of his love for her.
 - 1. When he found her undone, enslaved, and humiliated, he set his love on her again and bought her out of her slavery.
- II. He brought her home and isolated her for many days.
 - A. She deserved a bill of divorce. But rather than treat her as she deserved, he treated her as his love compelled him, Ps 103.8-10.
 - 1. In a sense, he exiled her, isolating her without comforts or her husband's embrace.
 - 2. He did this to humble her for her waywardness and to break her heart for her rebellion. She needed to understand how undeserving she was to be taken back at all.

B. Hosea illustrates with Gomer the strategy which the Lord said He'd use with Israel in chapter 2.6-15. It's tough love, but it's also redeeming love.

- III. The manner in which Hosea's work of restoration illustrated the Lord's redeeming purposes for Israel is clear.
 - A. Hosea's enduring love for adulterous Gomer illustrated Yahweh's enduring love for adulterous Israel, v.1.
 - 1. The breach between Israel and Yahweh was as wide as the sea but God's love for Israel was not an earned love. It was a free love that couldn't be quenched by sin, Rom 5.8-10.
 - 2. The covenant God made with Abraham was sovereignly designed and sovereignly administered, and would be sovereignly kept, Gen 15.18-21.
 - B. Gomer's experience of dwelling alone for many days illustrated Israel's exile in a foreign land, v.4.
 - 1. Israel had to find out the hard way, the consequences of wandering off from God, the consequences of God not being on your side, cp. Rom 8.31.
 - 2. God was set on Israel's restoration but it can only come about by her repentance.
 - C. In v.5 we get a window once again into the eschatological hope that marked the preaching of the prophets, Ezk 36.24-31.
 - 1. Not everyone will come back from exile, but the elect will all return, Jn 6.37; 1Pet 2.9-11; Rom 9.22-26.
 - 2. Through Jesus Christ, He'll bring His exiled elect home, Rom 5.21; Eph 2.7. Christ keeps covenant for covenant-breakers.

Hope for Exiles

- I. God's grace for sinners is found only in Jesus Christ, 1.11; 3.5; Jn 14.6. There is grace for sinners, but only in the gospel of Christ. Don't look for salvation outside of Christ, because there is none, Heb 10.26-27.
- II. God's love is enduring, Dt 7.7-8, not because God can abide our sins, but rather because in love He's pleased to lay all our sins on Christ, Isa 53.6. Don't let your sins keep you from God. Lay hold on Christ and let Him bring you home.
- III. God's love warrants your love in return, Ps 31.23. If you know the saving love of God, then see that you love Him back, with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength, Dt 6.4-25.