**A Shocking Portrayal of God’s Love**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 24: Hosea

McDonald Bible Methodist

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**SERMON NOTES**

1. **A Real-Life Object Lesson**

Children’s Names

Jezreel: punishment

Lo-ruhamah: no compassion

Lo-ammi: not my people

* Hosea is called to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gomer, who God knew would be unfaithful
* Gomer, like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, plays the harlot.
* Hosea is told to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gomer back from her harlotry

Application to Israel:

New Names

Ruhamah: Compassion

Ammi: My people

* God instructs Hosea to drop the \_\_\_\_\_ from his children’s names
* God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ compels Him to offer unthinkable mercy (11:8-9)

Application to Us:

* We, like Israel, have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ egregiously against God
* Jesus ***died for us*** “while we were sinners” (Rom. 5:8)
1. **The Solution**

*Question: Is this the best-case scenario: we are persistently rebellious, and God demonstrates endless mercy?*

**Hosea 14:4 – “I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their apostasy”**

Application:The prophets speak of the New Covenant as a time when we will have new hearts that love to obey God. A follower of Christ, then, pursues holiness and purity of heart.

Answers: marry, **Israel,** buy, **Lo,** love, **sinned,** heal

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

**Bible study:** Read Hosea 1:1-3

1. Discuss the difficulty of following this command from God. What is the difference between this command and the other object lessons we see in the prophets?
2. How does the imagery of Hosea and Gomer help us understand God’s relationship with Israel? How does it help us, to see ourselves as Gomer?
3. Read Hosea 11, tracing God’s emotion towards his son, Ephraim. What factors influenced His feelings towards Ephraim?
4. What event in this story is paralleled by Jesus’ dying for us?
5. Discuss the “best case scenario” from the front. How is this often confused? Thinking about our parallel to Gomer, why does Hosea inspire you to be transformed into Christlikeness?

**Prayer from Hosea**

“Thank you for loving me, even when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”