

## The Love Story of Hosea

What we are discussing takes place around 725 BC in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

In a time when Israel had turned its heart away from God, when altars to idols rose in places of prayer, the Lord called a man named Hosea as a prophet to Israel.

But Hosea was not only called to speak to Israel. He was called to live the message of God before them. And the command from God was unthinkable...

**Hosea 1:2-3** <sup>2</sup> When the LORD began to speak by Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD.” <sup>3</sup> So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

So Hosea obeyed. He took \_\_\_\_\_, the daughter of Diblaim, as his wife. A woman who would leave him, betray him, and pursue other lovers.

She bore three children. Each one was named as a warning from God:

- Jezreel – \_\_\_\_\_ would come like a scattering wind.
- Lo-Ruhamah – “Not \_\_\_\_\_,” for mercy had been withdrawn.
- Lo-Ammi – “Not \_\_\_\_\_,” for they had forgotten the One who called them.

But even then, even after her betrayal, God’s voice came again:

**Hosea 3:1** Then the LORD said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods....”

So Hosea found her, broken and disgraced, and bought her back with silver and barley.

This was not just marriage, it was the manifestation of prophecy in the flesh...because Hosea’s pain was a mirror of God’s own:

- A God who is abandoned, yet \_\_\_\_\_.
- A God who is betrayed, yet \_\_\_\_\_.
- A God who is not loved, yet \_\_\_\_\_ without measure.

**Hosea 14:4** I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him.

The story of Hosea and Gomer is not just about Israel. It’s about us.

- Our wandering hearts.
- Our false loves.
- And the God who buys us back, not with silver and barley, but with blood.

**Christ the Bridegroom**...the One who comes not with wrath, but with mercy; not with accusations, but with tears; who finds His Bride in chains and purchases her freedom with His own life.

May we never forget that His love is not like the world’s love.

- It is fierce.
- It is faithful.
- And it never lets go.