Hosea 11:1-12:6

A few months we did a devotional on Hosea Ch 1-3.

Does anyone remember the theme and message?

Now, Hosea 11:1-12:6

Hosea 11:1-4

Hosea Ch 1-3 The metaphor for our relationship with God is that of a faithful husband and an unfaithful wife. What did we learn about God from that?

The metaphor here is of a father and his child, and we are the child.

11:1 When we were helpless children, God called us out of Egypt.

God is calling to mind their deeply held history.

They had been slaves in Egypt. They were not a people. They had not received mercy. They were slaves. They could not worship God.

He called them out and made a covenant based on *hesed*. This called for faithful covenant-love from God’s people.

Matthew quotes this in Matthew 2:14-15 What? Is Hosea 11:1 a prophecy of Jesus going down into Egypt?

No, it is a foreshadow and a prophetic pattern. Jesus is the second Moses who calls us out of spiritual slavery.

Out of Egypt God called Joseph (Joshua 24:32). Joseph was taken as a slave in Egypt, but when he died, he asked that his body be taken out of Egypt to be buried as Shechem.

Out of Egypt God called Moses who, though he lived in the palace of Pharaoh, left the palace to live among the slaves, and God called him out of Egypt so that he could save Israel.

Out of Egypt God called Israel because as slaves they could not worship God. So God used Moses as a savior.

Out of Egypt God called the second Moses, Jesus.

Notice: Out of Egypt I called my Son. The Son of God, and us as his son.

Out of Egypt God called you!!!

11:3 I taught Ephraim/Israel/us how to walk, spiritually.

11:4 He led us with cords of human-like kindness.

 With “ties” of love.

11:5 He lifted us to his cheek, and bent down to feed us (manna)

But…

11:2 NIV But the more they were called [by God] the more they went away from me.

This is not the sense of the Hebrew. It is “they [Israel] called to them [Egypt], that is how they [Israel] went from them [Egypt].”

In other words, even as God called them out of Egypt, they were already looking back!

Have you been looking back to Egypt? Have you had one eye on God and one eye on the things of the world? Are you a double-minded person?

11:2 They sacrificed to the Baals. A reference to the golden calf?

Q: As a single, are you still looking to idols? A great career? A relationship? Your garden, hobby, nature-time, whatever?

Hosea 11:5-7 Because of their idolatry, I will give them over to Assyria (which indeed happened within a generation, in 722 BC). We need to take idolatry seriously!!!

11:7 They worship God Most High and hope God will lift them on high.

No way I will exalt them if they continue to look back to Egypt/slavery/idolatry.

11:8-11 But God loves them/us with a Father’s love.

v. 8 How can I treat you like Admah or Zeboiim? These are city 3,4 after Sodom and Gomorrah.

God: My justice says that I need to totally destroy you. That is definitely what we deserved.

But a loving God can’t carry out his wrath like this.

v. 8 His compassion is aroused!

v. 9 He will not carry out his judgment on us. Praise God!!!

Jonah 4:2 “I know that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

v. 9 I am the Holy One of Israel. I will do as I please. I will not bring the destruction that your life deserves.

v. 10 No! I will roar like a lion, and my children will come form the west.

I will call a remnant from captivity.

I will settle my people in homes. John 14:2 In my father’s house there are many rooms.

Hosea 11:12-12:2 Ephraim has lied. Even Judah has been unfaithful.

12:1 They make treaties with Egypt and Assyria. They compromise with the world and rely in the world for safety, not on me.

12:3-5 They are like Jacob, their namesake.

v. 3 He grasped his brother’s heel and struggled with me

v. 4 But Jacob changed. He met me at Bethel. He struggled with God and got the blessing. (that is the meaning of Israel—he struggled with God)

God: He zealously sought me and I gave him a blessing.

12:6 The end of the matter:

Return to God.

Maintain hesed and justice

Maintain the covenant of discipleship you made with me when you put your hand to the plow and vowed not to look back.

And exercise justice. Take care of the poor, the needy and help people to come into a relationship with me.

Always wait in the Lord who

1. Called you out of Egypt like a Father to a son.

2. Whose compassion is aroused so that he will not treat you as Admah and Zeboiim.

3. Who will respond if we zealously seek a blessing from him.