

The Faithfulness of God (*Hosea*)

June 2, 2024

An allegory is defined as, “The representation of ideas or principles by characters, figures, or events in narrative and dramatic form.”

“What is God trying to show me or tell me about his nature and character in this story?” “How does this story apply to my life and to my faith today?”

To demonstrate to the people how God viewed their idolatry, the prophet Hosea was told to marry an unfaithful wife (Gomer) who bears children by her unfaithfulness and eventually deserts him. In this, she models what Israel was doing to God.

People feel that they can reject God with impunity. “What does it matter,” they say. “It will all work out in the end.”

God says, “Yes, you are my people, but that does not mean I will withhold my judgement from you.”

God is a God of justice as well as a God of love. Israel had blown it. They had turned their backs on God too many times.

The adulterous Gomer has deserted Hosea. And, ultimately, she reaches the point of utter destitution.

Gomer’s unfaithfulness, her desertion of her husband, her affairs and her eventual slide into prostitution has brought her to a place of complete humiliation. Hosea has to go and buy back his own wife.

The covenant of marriage that has been established between Hosea and Gomer is a picture of the agreement God has made with his people.

This is the fundamental message of Hosea. The covenant God has made with Israel has been broken through the unfaithfulness of God’s people.

God’s main charge against his people is their lack of knowledge of God. Because this lack of knowledge ultimately leads to a lack of acknowledgement of God.

An idol is anything in our lives that pulls us away from God. Anything to which we devote ourselves in place of God.

They neglected the study of the Word of God which slowly diminished their commitment to their relationship with God.

Statistics show that a growing number of people are placing less emphasis on the Word of God in their lives. They have less of an interest in the knowledge of God. And the less knowledge we have of him, the less acknowledgement we will have of him.

The idols in our lives are doing exactly what idols do, they are leading us away from God.

The story of Hosea is ultimately a story of God’s faithfulness. As he told Hosea to do with Gomer, God will seek us out even in the midst of our destitution. He will not abandon his covenant relationship with us despite our unfaithfulness.

“I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. Hosea 14:4

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

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