

Relentless

Recap-Part Three: "Purchase"

Hosea 3:1-3

The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

Gomer's Song- Michael Card

Don't know what he sees in me
He is spirit, he is free
And I, the wife of adultery
Gomer is my name
Simply more than I can see
How he keeps on forgiving me
How he keeps his sanity
Hosea, you're a fool

The fondness of a father
The passion of a child
The gentleness of a loving friend
An understanding smile
All of this and so much more
You've lavished on a faithless whore
I've never known love like this before

Hosea, you're a fool

A fool to love someone like me
A fool to suffer silently
Though sometimes through your eyes I see
I'd rather be a fool

This God of yours would not have told
To lift a love that you couldn't hold
And though time and time again I flee
I'm always glad to see you coming after me

Simply more than I can see
How he keeps on forgiving me
The wife of adultery
Gomer is my name

How does this song explain God and us, instead of just Hosea and Gomer?

How might you relate with Gomer?

Read **I Peter 1: 18-19** and **Matthew 20:28**

What picture is described?

Read **Romans 5:8-11**, **Galatians 3:13**, and **Hebrews 9:22**

What picture does this give of what happened at the Cross?

Read **Colossians 2:13-15**, **Ephesians 1: 17-23**, and **Acts 2:32-36**

How is this picture different from the others?

These three sets of scriptures are used to explain three theories of ATONEMENT. Specifically:

Ransom (Purchase)

Substitution (Jesus takes our place)

Christus Victor (Jesus allows evil to do its worst in order to expose and defeat it.)

What imagery do you most connect with?

Are you seeking self worth? To be valued for more than you can accomplish or earn?

Know that to God you are the pearl of great price for which he gave everything to redeem for himself.

Are you struggling with guilt or shame? Is your life full of REGRETS? Do you even relate to Barabbas sometimes?

Know that Jesus took all of that and nailed it to the Cross with himself.

Do you weary of all the power struggles in your life?

Do you feel the futility of chasing after position, wealth, or influence?

Do you feel harassed by things both seen and unseen, as if there were a war raging and that you are often just collateral damage?

Know that Jesus has won the ultimate victory at the cross, and was vindicated by the Resurrection. He has overcome the world and through him, we have victory. Count everything loss to receive him. Seek first his Kingdom.

We can only see the imagery God has revealed through his Spirit and in his word. Ultimately, we don't fully know what happened on that cross. But we can be thankful.

As we approach Easter, I pray that if you have any need to respond to the gift of the Cross, that you do so. We live in a fallen world that profanes its own worth, perverts justice, and is oblivious to the true battles raging in the unseen places. This may be a long week until Easter, but Sunday's coming.

How will you honor what Jesus did for you this week?

What will you tell others?

How can you use this Easter/Passion Week to start conversations with others about Jesus?

For more on Hosea and Gomer's Song, read *Inexpressible*, by Michael Card.