

# Relentless

## Recap: Part Two: Separation and Hope

Read **Hosea 2: 1-13**

Is this Gomer, or Israel?

Whose children? What is required of Hosea at this point?

Who does she credit with her provision?

What of fertility?

Who is the REAL God of Fertility and Life?

Sin has “natural consequences”. Gomer had no chance ultimately without Hosea. Once her “marketability” changes, she is destitute.

Israel has no chance without God. Once his provision is withheld, it is destitute.

What about us?

In Hosea 11: 1-7, God uses another metaphor for Israel ( A Rebellious Child)

“When Israel was a **child**, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. “Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

Who does this describe?

Taught to walk, Took them by the arms, healed them, cords of human kindness, ties of love, lifts a little child to the cheek, Bent down to feed them. JOHN’S Gospel, as we have seen, is full of these images!

Who else does this describe?

Do we realize?

Why use the sexual metaphor? IT IS A SHADOW.

Read Ephesians 5:25-33

**What is the mystery?** (Hint: it is not, “the two will become one flesh”-- That part they had figured out.)

See also **1 Corinthians 6:15–20**

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

**HOPE:** Read Hosea 2:14-23

“Therefore I am now going to **allure** her; I will lead her into the wilderness and **speak tenderly** to her. There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she **will respond** as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. “In that day,” declares the LORD, “**you will call me ‘my husband’**; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’ I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD. “In that day **I will respond**,” declares the LORD— “I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’ ”

**How did the relationship change?**

“Allure” vs “go and marry”

“my husband” vs “master”

Choice vs enslavement

NEXT WEEK...

**We will focus our “Good Friday” message on the PURCHASE described in Hosea 3.**