

Lessons from the life of Hosea

1- Objectives

- ❖ To know about Hosea
- ❖ To learn from him dealing with oppression

2- References

- ❖ The Holy Bible “Book of Hosea”
- ❖ The Orthodox Study Bible
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Hosea by Father Tadros Malaty

[http://st-takla.org/pub Bible-Interpretations/Holy-Bible-Tafsir-01-Old-Testament/Father-Tadros-Yacoub-Malaty/33-Sefer-Hoshae/Tafseer-Sefer-Hosha3_00-index.html](http://st-takla.org/pub/Bible-Interpretations/Holy-Bible-Tafsir-01-Old-Testament/Father-Tadros-Yacoub-Malaty/33-Sefer-Hoshae/Tafseer-Sefer-Hosha3_00-index.html)

3- Scriptural Verse

- ❖ “For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings” (Hosea 6: 6)

4- Lesson Outlines

Who is Hosea?

- ❖ Hosea is the son of Beeri, of the tribe of Issachar and his name means salvation. He prophesized in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.
- ❖ Minor Prophet (His book contains 14 chapters).
- ❖ Lived in the 8th century BC. His prophecy occurred about 750 BC.
- ❖ Contemporary of the prophets Amos in the Northern Kingdom, and Isaiah and Micah in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- ❖ Lived in the Northern Kingdom before the Assyrian exile and destruction of Jerusalem (722 BC). He was calling to bring Israel back to its covenant with the Lord as they were turned to the pagans.
- ❖ Warned the people concerning the coming punishment of their sins.
- ❖ 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.” (Hosea 1:2).

Lessons to Learn

1- Faithfulness can be fleeting and emotional

- ❖ Your faithfulness is like a morning cloud, and like the early dew it goes away. (6:4)
- ❖ We might think we are faithful but maybe it’s because there is no temptation or hardship or maybe we are not aware of the level of faithfulness God calls us for.

- ❖ Faithfulness is tested in the fire – Job.
- ❖ A house of cards might appear strong until you touch it.

2- Our help is God

- ❖ Disobeying God has serious consequences: “Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, because they have transgressed against Me” (Hosea 7:13). Note that this is the consequence of sin and not a punishment from the Lord as St. Paul said: “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” (Romans 1: 28).
- ❖ We are not as smart as we think: “Ephraim also is like a silly dove, without sense-- They call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them” (Hosea 1: 11).
- ❖ We are treacherous: “Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me... “Though I disciplined and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against Me” (Hosea 7:11-16).

3- The fallow (Uncultivated) ground

- ❖ Farmers that do not sow their land are foolish. What have we done with our land?
- ❖ Sow good works and seek the Lord to reap God’s mercy and enjoy when He comes and rains righteousness on you.
- ❖ “Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you. You have plowed wickedness; you have reaped iniquity. You have eaten the fruit of lies, because you trusted in your own way, in the multitude of your mighty men“ (Hosea 10: 12-13).

4- Calling on vs. exalting God

- ❖ Exalting God is to pay attention to His Word and to do His will “My people are bent on backsliding from Me. Though they call to the Most High, none at all exalt Him” (Hosea 11:7)
- ❖ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matthew 7:21) .
- ❖ God knows those that do His will and not just talk to Him when they need something “let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:18).

5- God’s longsuffering

- ❖ God is not out to get us. He wants us to see the depth of our sin so we can see the depth of His compassion and forgiveness.
- ❖ God ordered Hosea to restore his wife after harlotry so that they know that God will not forsake them for their inequities.
- ❖ God comfort us in the middle of our transgression: “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I set you like Zeboiim? My heart churns within Me; My sympathy is stirred. I will not execute the fierceness of My anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim. For I am God, and not man, The Holy One in your midst” (Hosea 11:8-9).

6- True sanctification is possible

- ❖ “Those who dwell under His shadow shall return; they shall be revived like grain, and grow like a vine. Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim shall say, ‘What have I to do anymore with idols?’ I have heard and observed him. I am like a green cypress tree; your fruit is found in Me” (Hosea 14: 7-8).
- ❖ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1: 18).

5- Conclusion

- ❖ Make sure of your faith, put it into action and do not deceive yourself.
- ❖ God is our only help and support; do not depend on any person or any ruler.
- ❖ Cultivate your land, take away any weeds and be ready for the righteous rain.
- ❖ Trust in the Lord’s mercy regardless of how great your sin is and have always hope in God who will Purify and sanctify you and make you able for His kingdom.

6- Activities / Discussion points

- ❖ Divide the audience into groups and give each group parts of the Book of Hosea and let them find all the points you want to discuss so that they will be active in the discussion.