

LESSON 5 - Hosea 8 & 9



*For the ways of the Lord are right;
The righteous walk in them;
Hosea 14:9b*

Day 1 *Begin your study with time in prayer. Ask God to show you His truth.*

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 8:1-6

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

God's judgment against Israel was to come through an attack from Assyria (2 Kings 15:28,29). Just like a bird of prey which swiftly swoops down and snatches its victim, so Assyria would invade Israel and take them captive.

Note in verse 5 God says "*your calf is rejected, O Samaria*", Samaria was the capital of the Northern kingdom and sometimes it stands for the whole kingdom of Israel.

Israel had rejected God and now pays the consequences for their disobedience. It gives God no pleasure to discipline His children, but it is out of His love for them, and us, that discipline is necessary to guide our heart in the right direction.

1. What will Israel cry out? (v2)

2. What does Titus 1:16 tell us?

3. What will happen to the calf of Samaria? (v5, 6)

Idolatry and adultery were prominent in Israel as they held other things above the Lord. God is a jealous God over His people and He will destroy those golden calves in our life to draw us back to Him. God is patient; but when someone continually stays in their sin and rejects God, it will one day be too late. We don't know what God's 'breaking' point is, that is why the scripture is so clear stating 'today' is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Don't put it off any longer, and if you are sitting on the fence that separates a follower of Jesus and the world, it's time to make a solid committed decision for Christ. Faithfulness is crucial in life of the believer.

4. Exhorting one another [not reasoning] is a good thing. In reading Hebrews 3:13 and Mark 8:17. Explain the passages and what to prevent.

Day 2 Pray for our church, Pastors and their wives.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 8:7-10

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

If you sow to the wind, what will the harvest be? Unfortunately, many people never think about what their actions lead to. Many believe their actions won't hurt anyone else; but we all know that is not true. We've seen the destruction or been affected by sin. The affect of sin ripples out far beyond what we believe or imagine; especially when caught up in the sin.

1. The Bible has a lot to say about the law of sowing and reaping. Read the following passage and summarize what you learned.
 - a. Job 4:8
 - b. Proverbs 22:8
 - c. Proverbs 11:18

2. Give an instance of letting God guide what you are sowing in your life?
 - a. What are you currently planting in your life?
 - b. What are you planting in the lives of those around you?
 - c. What affect has the planting had in the lives of those around you?

3. What happened to Israel? (v7b-9)

There is a hint of God's mercy in verse 10 for although God promised Israel would face captivity and exile, He would one day gather them again.

Day 3 Pray for our Nation, State and City Officials.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 8:11-14

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

Israel had placed his confidence in the efforts of his own making by building temples, but not to God, relying on his own military strength, strong defenses and economic stability. Even today we see nations flex their muscles, trying to prove they have might and power. On a more personal level, even we might become prideful in “our accomplishments”. We are not saying God will send fire upon your accomplishments, or devour them; but by leaving Him out of the equation, and plan it will ensure there will not be meaningful, eternal success.

Pastor Jon Courson comments: *“These people, (meaning Israel), were doing what we often do in contemporary American Christianity. They were building ministries, programs and gated communities. But they lost their personal, vital intimate relationship with the Lord in the process.”*⁶

Let’s not forget our Maker, He is the one who gave the talents and abilities we possess to be used for His glory alone and not ours. We, at times, put other things on the altar of our heart rather than Jesus Christ. Everyday there is something we're inclined to put ahead of God, it could be our spouse, our work, our children, TV, computer time and the list goes on- we're all guilty; but let the Holy Spirit guide to make better choices and put God first in all areas of our lives.

Personal Challenge: Is there something on the throne of your heart you find difficult to let go of? Is it taking the place of the Lord or His Word in your life? Are you willing to confess it and be accountable to someone regarding that area? Take action on this today if you are serious.

1. Altars that were meant to be used to bring sin offerings to God were being used for what? (v11).
2. How did Ephraim regard God’s law? (12)
3. Who did Israel forget? (v14)
4. What did Judah multiply or build? (v14)

Day 4 Pray for Missionaries

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 9:1-9

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Day 5 Pray for your Bible teacher and small group

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 9:10-17

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

God is reminding the people what their ancestors used to be like; they were like grapes in a wilderness, nourishing and refreshing, faithful and fruitful to Him. This chapter ends with some very sad news for Israel. The LORD kept His promise under the terms of the Old Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:24-28). Thankfully, we have the opportunity to learn from Israel's mistakes and know Jesus Christ, God's only Son, as our personal Lord and Savior. God still hates sin and will bring correction where and when it is needed.

1. What did the people do that changed the relationship between them and God? (v10b)
2. Describe a time when you were fruitful to the Lord?
3. How are you still being fruitful?

The Lord does not desire to cast anyone away or make them wanderers, but those who continually refuse to follow and obey Him leave Him no choice. (v17); however, once we come to Him in repentance and sincerely seek after Him and abide in Him we are secure. You can rejoice because of the truth the apostle Paul teaches us in his letter to the Romans.

4. Read Romans 8:31-39 and journal your thoughts and a prayer.

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness;
reap in mercy; . . .
for it is time to
seek the Lord. —