

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

### LESSON 4: DIVORCE COURT

Intro:

Hosea's 1<sup>st</sup> Marriage (\_\_\_\_\_) => Divine Actions (Divorce & Reconciliation) (\_\_\_\_\_) =>  
Hosea's 2<sup>nd</sup> Marriage (\_\_\_\_\_) <sup>16</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Plead with your mother, plead—  
for she is not my wife,  
and I am not her husband—  
that she put away her whoring from her face,  
and her adultery from between her breasts;  
<sup>3</sup> lest I strip her naked  
and make her as in the day she was born,  
and make her like a wilderness,  
and make her like a parched land,  
and kill her with thirst.

- Hosea, representing \_\_\_\_\_, wants his children to \_\_\_\_\_ (*rib*) the case against her.
- **Ortland:** since the \_\_\_\_\_ aren't listening to God, an uprising may get their attention.
- Shocking: "*she is not my wife and I am not her husband.*" No more support (Lev. 21:10)!
- Stuart argues for \_\_\_\_\_. Not very persuasive. See Jer. 3:8!
- Divorce was allowed for "\_\_\_\_\_" if there weren't 2-3 witnesses. Deut. 24:1-4.
- He cannot \_\_\_\_\_ her if she marries someone else in-between.
- This is a call to \_\_\_\_\_ her adulteress ways, to stop looking for & \_\_\_\_\_ adultery.
- These may be references to \_\_\_\_\_ & make-up on her face & between her breasts.
- He issues a common covenant \_\_\_\_\_: "*strip her naked*". Talonic justice and/or ironic.
- She was to be exposed to public \_\_\_\_\_ since she got \_\_\_\_\_ for those not her \_\_\_\_\_ (Ez. 16:35-37).
- This alludes to \_\_\_\_\_ for the captives were often taken away \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ & no escape.
- She will be made like a \_\_\_\_\_: uncultivated, barren, unpopulated.
- This also alludes to the exile: people were \_\_\_\_\_ & no one left to \_\_\_\_\_.

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<sup>16</sup> Pratt, pp. 50.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

<sup>4</sup> Upon her children also I will have no mercy,  
because they are children of whoredom.  
<sup>5</sup> For their mother has played the whore;  
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.  
For she said, 'I will go after my lovers,  
who give me my bread and my water,  
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns,  
and I will build a wall against her,  
so that she cannot find her paths.  
<sup>7</sup> She shall pursue her lovers  
but not overtake them,  
and she shall seek them  
but shall not find them.  
Then she shall say,  
'I will go and return to my first husband,  
for it was better for me then than now.'

- These covenant sanctions are not limited to \_\_\_\_\_ Samaria. Also for her \_\_\_\_\_.
- They seem to be old enough to display the same \_\_\_\_\_ as their mother (Ez. 16:44ff).
- Back to Hosea, this would mean his ministry was at least 20-30 years long at this point.
- She acted \_\_\_\_\_ by "*playing the whore*", giving access to her body for \_\_\_\_\_.
- "*I will go after*" used of religious \_\_\_\_\_ (Judges 2:12) or seeking a \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov. 7:22)
- He will throw up thorns & hedges to \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.
- She was not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ many lovers (Ez 16:15, 23-29).
- She did not \_\_\_\_\_ her Husband to provide for her so she sought \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- She had sought life from the \_\_\_\_\_. While married to YHWH she worshiped them.
- The Canaanite gods were \_\_\_\_\_ gods. They worshiped to get a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ will not come through for her, and she will be left \_\_\_\_\_.
- Even before the exile, prosperous Samaria will be devastated \_\_\_\_\_.
- Finally she will come to her senses and \_\_\_\_\_ to the One, true God.

"The nation was arriving at wrong conclusions, partly because they were asking the wrong questions and cherishing the wrong desires." **Ray Ortlund Jr.**<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Ortlund, pp. 59.

<sup>8</sup> And she did not know  
that it was I who gave her  
the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and who lavished on her silver and gold,  
which they used for Baal.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore I will take back  
my grain in its time,  
and my wine in its season,  
and I will take away my wool and my flax,  
which were to cover her nakedness.

- All along \_\_\_\_\_ was the one who gave her all that she enjoyed (Ez. 16:11, 17-19).
- Calvin accuses Israel of “inexcusable \_\_\_\_\_.” Sin makes us \_\_\_\_\_!
- Israel used all He gave her to pursue Baal, who really gave Israel nothing: \_\_\_\_\_.
- He will take back the \_\_\_\_\_, wine, \_\_\_\_\_ and flax. This is another covenant curse.
- He will take away her \_\_\_\_\_ leaving her \_\_\_\_\_.
- He removes the outward \_\_\_\_\_ that concealed the inner \_\_\_\_\_ rot.<sup>18</sup>

“Nakedness is much more titillating than shameful in modern society, hence the popularity of revealing clothes and the appeal of nudity in photography. Nakedness could have its erotic side in antiquity as well, but in Semitic society public displays of it were considered shameful.”<sup>19</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Now I will uncover her lewdness  
in the sight of her lovers,  
and no one shall rescue her out of my hand.  
<sup>11</sup> And I will put an end to all her mirth,  
her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths,  
and all her appointed feasts.  
<sup>12</sup> And I will lay waste her vines and her fig trees,  
of which she said,  
‘These are my wages,  
which my lovers have given me.’  
I will make them a forest,  
and the beasts of the field shall devour them.  
<sup>13</sup> And I will punish her for the feast days of the Baals  
when she burned offerings to them  
and adorned herself with her ring and jewelry,  
and went after her lovers  
and forgot me, declares the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> Ortlund, pp. 63.

<sup>19</sup> Dearman, pp. 116.

## Hosea: The Stubborn & Holy Love of God

- Exposed, she will be \_\_\_\_\_ by all her \_\_\_\_\_. Baal will not \_\_\_\_\_ her!
- He goes a step farther in all of this. She used \_\_\_\_\_ days to pursue Baal, not YHWH.
- God will put an end to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel: new moons, feasts and Sabbaths.
- *“I will make them a forest”* is common curse language in the OT. \_\_\_\_\_ ceases.
- *“forgot me”* means to not bring Him into \_\_\_\_\_ thought to shape \_\_\_\_\_ & attitudes.
- They hadn’t neglected worship so much as settled for the \_\_\_\_\_ instead of focused on \_\_\_\_\_.

“He announces that, having firmly punished Israel for her infidelity, and having thereby reduced her to dependency, he will romance her again, to reestablish a loving relationship with her.”

**Doug Stuart**<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Stuart, pp. 45.