

Hosea 4

Note: *Hosea 1-3* is about the love story between Hosea and Gomer

-*Hosea 4-14* is made up of sermons that Hosea preached to the people

Hosea 4.1-3

V1 – Three areas where the Israelites were defective? Faithfulness, kindness (or loyalty), and knowledge

-According to the *Beacon Bible Commentary*, "knowledge" is not intellectual knowledge, but "knowing" God (understanding him)

V2 – What sins had they committed? Swearing (taking the Lord's name in vain), deception, murder, stealing, adultery

-They violated 5 of the 10 Commandments here in *Hosea 4.2*

-What else had they done? Shed blood

-Result? More bloodshed (revenge)

V3 – What else suffered because of the immorality of the people? The land

-See **1 Kings 17.1-7** – The drought in the days of Ahab and Elijah: no rain for 3 ½ years; the animals suffered

-Same today: The land mourns because of immorality – more air pollution, more greed, people dump waste in the water, they have to have the best of everything, and the land suffers

-How can we change the environment for better? Encourage people to be more moral in the decisions that they make

Hosea 4.4-10 – Criticism of the prophets and religious leaders

V4 – Why was it useless to argue with the Israelites? They didn't want to listen; it wouldn't do any good; they liked to argue with the priests

V5 – Their priests were involved with their sins too (by night)

-Destroy mother? A reference to the nation of Israel

V6 – What was the charge against the priests? They did not know God

-What had they forgotten? The law of God

-Result? God had rejected them

-There is a powerful message here – we must know the Word of God

-In too many congregations, there are cute stories, pleasing messages, all kinds of electronic presentations and theatrics, but the Bible is not taught.

V7 - Their sin was growing worse and worse

V8 – The people offered a sacrifice for their sins – the Old Testament priests got to eat the meat that was sacrificed – therefore, they encouraged the people to sin, so that the priests would

get more food

V 9 – Who was imitating whom? The priests were imitating the people (just the opposite of how it should have been)

V 10 – Result? Not enough food; no children; they were always in need

Hosea 4.11-14

V 11 – What deadened their spirituality? Visiting prostitutes and drinking alcohol

V 12 – What else? Worshipping idols; astrology (diviner's wand and the use of magic sticks)

V 13 – Tops of mountains? Places for pagan worship

V 14 – Who was guilty? Daughters, wives, men (without men, the prostitution would end)

Hosea 4.15-19

V 15 – What warning was given here? Judah should not follow the example of the Northern Kingdom

-The center of idol worship was Gilgal

-Judah was not to make pilgrimages to Gilgal

-What else were they not to do? Make false oaths

V 16 – What two animals were mentioned? A stubborn cow and a lamb

-Which one was Israel like? The stubborn cow

V 17 – Why let Ephraim alone? There was no more hope; they were too addicted to idolatry

V 18 – The liquor was gone, but they sinned with prostitution and loved shame

V 19 – The wind represented the coming Assyrian invasion

Lessons from Hosea 4:

1. Hosea was not embarrassed to have a "negative" sermon; he was not embarrassed to be called a "legalist"
2. Hosea was not afraid to call a spade a spade and tell the people outright about their sin

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