

August 12, 2007

Sermon: "Hope for Those Who Feel Unloved"

Scripture: Hosea 2:14-20

- ¹⁴ "Therefore I am now going to allure her;
I will lead her into the desert
and speak tenderly to her.
- ¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards,
and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she will sing as in the days of her youth,
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.
- ¹⁶ "In that day," declares the LORD,
"you will call me 'my husband';
you will no longer call me 'my master.' "
- ¹⁷ I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;
no longer will their names be invoked.
- ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them
with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air
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.
- ¹⁹ I will betroth you to me forever;
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,
in love and compassion.
- ²⁰ I will betroth you in faithfulness,
and you will acknowledge the LORD.

Introduction

- There is no greater feeling in the world than to know that you are absolutely, completely and unconditionally loved.
- And there is no greater emptiness a human can experience than to feel no one loves them.
- People will do just about anything to feel loved.
- Most people who feel unloved have a distorted view of reality.
- There is hope for you today! God loves you!
- Today we are going to look at a story from the Bible about Hosea and Gomer.
- Hosea's marriage to Gomer symbolizes God's love for you.
- Let's look at the extent of God's love for you.

I. God directs his love toward you personally.

- He loves you as an individual. (your name, needs, hurts & fears) [v.16]
- God wants a relationship with you based on love, not based on law.

- God wants a relationship with you based on devotion, not based on duty. [V.14]
- God loves you like you are the only person in the world.

II. God promises to love you forever.

- His love is permanent. [V.19]
- The word "betroth" means engagement.
- God will always love you - forever.
- Even on your worst day - God still loves you! (Jeremiah 31:3)

III. God gives his love to you without holding anything back

- We hold back in our relationships sometimes because we are afraid we will get hurt.
- God takes a different approach:
 - ⇒ He knows from the start - he will be hurt.
 - ⇒ He knows we will sin and our sin will break his heart.
 - ⇒ He still loves us unconditionally and holds nothing from us.
- Here's the difference between our love and God's:
 - ⇒ Others love you for what you do; God loves you for who you are.
 - ⇒ Others love you temporarily; God loves you forever.
 - ⇒ Others love you for what they see on the surface; God loves you even though he knows your darkest parts of life.
 - ⇒ Others love you on or off; God loves you always. [V.19-20]
- God will always be faithful to you.
- When God loves you, he holds nothing back.

Conclusion

- God loves you with all his heart, forever, completely, without holding anything back. (John 3:16)
- You can't change your past or undo the things that caused you to feel unloved.
- All you have to do is reach out and accept God's love and get on with life.