

**“Hosea, Your Life is an Illustration of my Love” –  
Sermon Reflection Questions  
January 10, 2010  
Hosea 3:1-5, Unlocking the Old Testament**

We are entering into a section of the Old Testament called the Minor Prophets. They are called the Minor Prophets simply because their books are shorter than the Major Prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah. With the exception of the book of Jonah, the Minor Prophets are probably the least known books of the Old Testament. For the next 12 weeks we will be looking at the messages that are contained within the Minor Prophets and see how these relate to our lives.

This first week we are going to look at the book of Hosea. Hosea, I think, is one of the oddest books in Bible and yet one of the most beautiful within the Old Testament. God does something that you wouldn't think God would do. He calls Hosea to marry the prostitute Gomer, so that God can illustrate the nature of His love through their relationship.

1. Either from the message or from Hosea 1:1-3:5 recount the story of Gomer and Hosea. What happened in their relationship?
  
2. Hosea and Gomer have three children. What are the initial names that God tells Hosea to give to these children and what significance do those names have? (Read Chapter 1)
  
3. How do the names of these three children help us understand our natural condition without the grace of Jesus? (Ephesians 2:3, Romans 6:23)
  
4. Gomer in this story is analogous for all of us. Sometimes it is difficult for people to think that Gomer represents them because Gomer was a prostitute, and we often think “I am not a prostitute so how can Gomer be symbolic for me?” If, however, we think that perhaps we might prostitute ourselves spiritually, then we might be more likely to identify with Gomer.
  - a. How might you define what I mean by spiritual prostitution? What other words, phrases, or concepts would be similar?
  
  - b. How might we (as humanity) prostitute ourselves spiritually?
  
  - c. How might you personally be tempted to prostitute yourself spiritually?

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5. Hosea is symbolic for how God displays His love for us. What similarities between Hosea’s love for Gomer (and their children) and God’s love for us do you see? (See Romans 5:8, Isaiah 53, John 3:16)

6. What does Hosea do for Gomer even after she has been purchased? (See Hosea 3:3)  
How does God do similar things in our lives?