

Hello. /We will begin the fifth lecture on the Book of Hosea. /Today's message focuses on Hosea 6:4.

/Verse 4. Please read. / What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

/God is speaking to Israel and South Judah, who because of their sin are meeting their downfall. /God is questioning them with a heavy heart. /He says, "What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?"

/God said he would embrace them and heal them if they only returned to him. /He said he would give them grace time and time again. /However, when God waited so long and they did not return, God says these things.

/We need to repent of our sins and return to God. /Returning to God is the main subject of the book of Hosea. /The verse says, "Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away."

/ "Love" here is chesed. /It is a warm love for God and for brothers and sisters. /Chesed still remained in them, /but their love was like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away.

/When Israel's faith became corrupt, their actions also went bad. /Yes, this is true. /A believer who has lost love for God has a love that goes away like the morning dew.

/Unchanging love and affection must come from God's chesed and agape love. /Our work and devotion for God will not last long if they are not grounded in a sincere spiritual walk with God. /Making one's own resolutions and having courage will not be enough to practice unchanging love. /This will only be irregular, temporary love.

/Verse 5. / Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light.

/In this way, God's people had turned away from God and had changed. /Therefore, God scolds and rebukes his people through his prophets. /It is better when God admonishes us with his word or through certain situations.

/Therefore, we must feel guilty when we read the word. /Also, we must return to God immediately after our conscience experiences guilt. /We need to hear God's message through multiple incidents.

/When God warns us through his word, we are able to obey God and return to him without being harmed. /But when we return after we have painful experiences, we are hurting. /God says, "My judgment goes forth as the light."

/When we do not repent and return to God, God's judgment comes forth like a shining light. /As God's word is unchanging, his words for judgment also do not change. /Thus, as God's love is unchanging, his judgment is unchanging.

/Verse 6. / For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

/God does not find joy in formal offerings. /God finds more joy when we follow his will and love our brothers than when we give offerings. /Jesus also refers to this message in Matthew 9:13.

/Jesus applied this message when he called Matthew the tax collector, /and he does this again in Matthew 12:7 when he passes through the grain fields on the Sabbath. /Before we give our praise, prayer, and offerings in worship, /we must first practice love, keep our righteousness, and protect our faith.

/God wants our chesed for him rather than sacrifices, and he wants us to know him rather than give burnt offerings. /Knowing God will give us life. /Knowledge of God is an important part of the message of Hosea.

/There are two sides to the knowledge about God. /First, there is theological knowledge. This is about who God is, /what he has done for Israel, /and what he requires of his people. /Thus, it is knowledge of the covenant.

/Hosea rebuked the priests and prophets who did not do their duties in teaching these things. /The second is knowledge of the heart. /It means responding personally to God's love /and obeying the will of God in our lives.

/Hosea pointed out the fact that the Israelites lacked knowledge of God and had left God. /This is the message of 5:4. / 5:4 says, / "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of whoredom is within them, and they know not the LORD."

/The verse says that they do not know the LORD, and they cannot return to God.

/Verse 7. / But like Adam they transgressed the covenant; there they dealt faithlessly with me.

/Straying from God's word and breaking the covenant leads to rebelling against God. /When Adam sinned, he did not repent, but he blamed Eve and he even blamed God. /Adam said he ate the fruit because of the women God created.

/Verse 8. / Gilead is a city of evildoers, tracked with blood.

/Gilead is a city of refuge. /It was a place people went to if they unintentionally committed murder. /People stayed here until the priest died, and when the priest died, they were given life. /The priest had to die for them to find life.

/Gilead was a place that gave life through Christ. /However, as the Israelites became corrupt, Gilead became a place of the wicked, a village of murderers. /Their faith was decaying, and rules and laws were broken. /Today, when we stray from God's word, we become like this.

/Verse 9. / As robbers lie in wait for a man, so the priests band together; they murder on the way to Shechem; they commit villainy.

/Shechem was also a city of refuge. /It was a village for priests, but it became a place where thieves killed. /The priests who were supposed to help the people in faith became murderers who killed people. /The church is a place that takes care of God's people.

/When the church becomes corrupt, God's people are exploited. /The Catholic Church of the Middle Ages did this. /The Russian Orthodox Church did this as well. /When the leader of the ministry becomes corrupt, believers are led down a road of sin.

/Therefore, there must be life at the church podium. /That way, the church will live and the nation will have a future. /This applies to the church in every country. /We must have an interest in this subject, and we must become people who pray.

/Verse 10. / In the house of Israel I have seen a horrible thing; Ephraim's whoredom is there; Israel is defiled.

/God's people left God. /They worshiped idols and fell into materialism. /They followed pleasure and became detestable to God. /The people who worshiped idols also fell into acts of physical adultery.

/Therefore, where idolatry is prevalent, a city becomes a place of sexual sin and debauchery. /These people only had to do good on the outside. /We are true believers who serve God. /We must serve God in spirit and in truth.

/Verse 11. / For you also, O Judah, a harvest is appointed, when I restore the fortunes of my people.

/God is speaking to the nation of South Judah. /He is warning them through the destruction of the North. /We need to learn lessons when we see other people fail. /We need to receive the warning.

/When we see a church in need, we must learn a lesson. /When we see a church of revival, we must learn from it. /Today, Jesus's second coming is near. /Scripture says there will be earthquakes, famine, and plague all over the world.

/Everything is happening as the Bible predicts. /There was a big earthquake in Japan. /Hundreds of thousands of people died because of the tsunami. /The nuclear power plant

was destroyed, and many people are in pain because of it. /Wars are happening in many places. /Terrorist acts are happening everywhere.

/Also, there is the problem of nuclear weapons in several nations. /When we see these difficult problems, we need to listen to God's warning. /We need to think of Jesus's second coming. /We must not put our hope in things of the earth.

/We need to think of our eternal home. /When we live on this planet, we must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. /Then, we can defeat sin and live to pay back the grace of God.

/Now, we will begin the lecture on Hosea chapter 7. /The nation of Israel was under the reign of King Jeroboam II. /When he reigned, the nation was powerful. /It was a time of political and economic stability. /The nation became rich due to trade.

/However, in God's eyes, it was a time of evil. /To fix this problem, God sent several prophets. /However, they were rejected, and the people continued to act in evil. /God then had to punish them.

/Jeroboam's son Zechariah was assassinated after six months of being king. /If we look at 2 Kings 15, Shallum, the man who killed Zechariah, becomes king, but he is killed within one month. /After that, Menahem, another evil man, became king and reigned for ten years.

/However, Menahem's son died after two years as king. /Israel did not listen to God at this time, so it saw four regime changes in thirteen years. /Israel is attacked by Assyria and eventually destroyed.

/Today's message rebukes Israel for not returning to God. /It is pointing out Israel's life apart from God. /The message gives us a lesson as well. /We must not repeat the mistakes of the Israelites.

/Verse 1. Please read. / When I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria; for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside.

/Ephraim is a representative tribe of the ten tribes of the North. /Samaria is the capital of North Israel. /North Israel's sin was revealed through its capital city and its representative tribe. /They were committing sins that were cunning.

/Cunning means to deceive someone with lies. /In order to steal from the poor and powerless, the king and his officials worked together to take away from the people. /They stole from the people and made them miserable. /They were stealing from people in groups.

/Verse 2. / But they do not consider that I remember all their evil. Now their deeds surround them; they are before my face.

/Even when they sinned, the people did not fear God. /Their sins were adding up, but they had no thought of returning to God. They were walking towards destruction. /We need to understand that when sin adds up, there will be judgment.

/Verse 3. / By their evil they make the king glad, and the princes by their treachery.

/The officials flattered the king with lies and committed all sorts of evil acts. /Lies and unlawfulness became routine for the king, the officials, and the people. /In today's third world countries, many illegal activities are happening. /There are bribes and unlawfulness in those countries.

/Kings must be honest and reward those who are righteous. /He must also punish evildoers and be fair. /But when the king becomes friends with those who do evil, he becomes an unjust king. /When evil people flatter the king, he is unable to see it as flattery and accepts their words.

/Verse 4. / They are all adulterers; they are like a heated oven whose baker ceases to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until it is leavened.

/God says that "they are all adulterers." /A soul without God is like an adulteress. /They are like a heated oven. /An oven is a tool that is always burning quietly so that it is always ready to prepare food.

/The verse is saying that Israel's sin may appear to be quiet, but when the opportunity comes, it burns a large fire of sin.

/Verse 5. / On the day of our king, the princes became sick with the heat of wine; he stretched out his hand with mockers.

/In verses 5-7, God rebukes Israel's acts of conspiracy and of overturning kings. /In verses 1-4, he rebuked them for their lies, stealing, and adultery.

/In Israel's corruption, the people celebrated birthdays and events with alcohol, and these parties brought prideful men together. /When leaders and prideful men shake hands, it is a sign of a nation's downfall. /This is the same for any organization.

/Verse 6. / For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue; all night their anger smolders; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

/A heart that holds sin is like a smoldering oven that blazes like a fire in the morning. /This means the sinful nature of the people of Israel will not be fixed. /We must get rid of any potential sin within us. /If we do not do this, the sin will rise up again.

/Verse 7. / All of them are hot as an oven, and they devour their rulers. All their kings have fallen, and none of them calls upon me.

/The burning sin had consumed unrighteous kings and corrupt priests. /Their deep sin had eventually consumed the people. /They had come to a place where they would kill each other in endless political change.

/Even then, no one called out to God. /Someone must call out to God when a generation becomes sinful. /However, the Israelites put their faith in people and things, and no one repented before God.

/In verses 8-12, God says he will punish Israel for mixing with the people.

/Verse 8. / Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

/The verse says “Ephraim is a cake not turned.” /The Israelites served God, but at the same time, they mixed with foreign nations. /They served both the world and God.

/The Israelites relied on Assyria’s military power and Egypt’s material abundance. /That is why Israel became a cake not turned. /A cake is a thin, baked bread. /When baking a cake, it must be flipped on each side.

/However, a cake not turned is well-baked on one side, but the other side is still raw. /It cannot be eaten. /North Ephraim was in this condition. /It relied on God only on one side.

/On the other side, Ephraim was relying on foreign nations. /It is like the adulteress who is rejected by both sides. /In worldly eyes, Egypt was a better place to live than Canaan.

/Living in Egypt means living for this world, but living in Canaan means looking to God. /There is happiness, strength, and freedom when we live for God. /We need to become people and a church that God can use.

/To do so, we must put God and the word at the center of our lives. /By following the word of God, we must look back on our sins and repent. /Also, we need to see a real change in our lives. /When we do this, we can live holy lives the way Jesus lived.

/Verse 9. / Strangers devour his strength, and he knows it not; gray hairs are sprinkled upon him, and he knows it not.

/Israel followed both Egypt and Assyria. /Israel, instead of receiving help from these nations, was consumed by Egypt and Assyria. /Even then, they did not realize they were doing wrong.

/Israel relied on Assyria. /Israel formed a military alliance with Assyria, and Assyria demanded unreasonable tributes. /Because of the tributes, Israel’s power rapidly declined. /If Israel had relied upon God, it would not have spent any money.

/However, Israel tried to handle things in human ways. /Israel did this, but it lost money and became weak. /Israel had become like a stressed person whose hair was turning white.

/Israel had become old inside and powerless. /We must remember that when we fall into the things of the world, we are walking down a path of destruction whether we realize it or not. /We become like a frog in a pot of water. /The frog stays still as the water gets warmer, but it eventually dies from the high temperature.

/Such is the result of someone who is like a cake not turned. /A believer must not rely on the world. /We need to go forward by relying on God. /Then, our faith becomes stronger, we find strength in God's word, and the Holy Spirit is with us.

/Verse 10. / The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him, for all this.

/Israel did not return to God because of pride. /The verse says the pride of Israel testifies to his face. /Pride is a big problem. /Pride is doing something with one's own strength without the help of God.

/A prideful person does not humble himself before God. /We need to return to God in fasting and repentance. /If we do not return to God, we cannot be saved. /God is the Almighty God, the God of Promises, and the Living God.

/God gave his own son as a sacrifice for our sins. /He adopted us as his own people. /God adopted us as his children. /He also promises us eternal life with him in Heaven.

/We need to return to God and seek his mercy. /We need to trust in his help and his promises in our lives. /That is when God will help us.

/Verse 11. / Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense, calling to Egypt, going to Assyria.

/Please read verse 12 as well. / As they go, I will spread over them my net; I will bring them down like birds of the heavens; I will discipline them according to the report made to their congregation.

/ Verse 11 says "Ephraim is like a dove, silly and without sense." /A silly dove flies into a field without knowing there is a net waiting for it. /In its greed for food, the bird falls into the net and dies. /Israel followed Egypt seeking to gain good things.

/However, the Israelites did not know there was a net waiting for them. /They were caught in the net. /People who trust in the world cannot find satisfaction or happiness. /They are lead astray by worldly things.

/These people are similar to men who seek many women. /We must not be tempted by the beautiful things of the world. /When we follow the things of the world, we end up falling down.

/Great strength, /beauty, /happiness, /satisfaction, /freedom, /peace, /nobility, /and life/ are all found in God. /God does not punish or bless us according to emotions. /He is a just God. /Verses 13-16 rebuke those who practice ritualism.

/Verses 13-14. / Woe to them, for they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, for they have rebelled against me! I would redeem them, but they speak lies against me. They do not cry to me from the heart, but they wail upon their beds; for grain and wine they gash themselves; they rebel against me.

/The Israelites prayed to God and repented of their sins whenever they faced trouble. /They were not sincerely crying out to God. /They only cried out to God when they were sick, so that they may be healed.

/As a temporary solution to their hunger, they prayed to God for food. /The core problem was that their hearts were away from God. /But they did not try to fix the problem.

/The Israelites only wanted God to solve their problems. /For these people, there is no salvation, but destruction and fire. /God wanted to save them, but because their hearts did not seek God, God could not save them.

/God is not deceived by our actions. /He wants us to have a proper conscience and to restore our faith. /We must always seek his kingdom first.

/Verses 15-16. / Although I trained and strengthened their arms, yet they devise evil against me. They return, but not upward; they are like a treacherous bow; their princes shall fall by the sword because of the insolence of their tongue. This shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

/God had trained Israel in many ways for a long time. /He trained them for forty years in the desert, and he strengthened their arms during the time of the Judges. /The purpose was to strengthen their arms to shoot arrows that would hit their targets.

/However, Israel used its arms to do evil. /The arrows they shot did not shoot upward, but went to the wrong places. /Here we must understand one thing.

/When God trains us and strengthens our arms, we must use the strength for the right purposes. /And as God's arrows, we need to be ready to go wherever God wants us to go. /We need to do the work of God that fulfills his will.



/We need to go into God's hands and go wherever he sends us. /Why did God give us a nice house, a good environment, and a good education? /He wants us to be his arrows that do the work of God.

/This ends the fifth lecture on the Minor Prophets. /Thank you.