

Hello. /We will begin our eighth lecture on Hosea. /Today's message begins from Hosea 10:12. /Verse 12 is about breaking up the fallow ground and sowing righteousness.

/Verse 12. /Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

/The verse says, "Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love," telling the people to return to a place of sincere repentance. /It is telling them to become people who are righteous. /Then, they will be able to receive steadfast love before God and people, and they will reach a point of repentance.

/When we obey the will of God in our lives, we will once again receive God's mercy. /No matter what sin a person may have committed, if the person resolves to live properly, people will show sympathy and mercy towards the person.

/God who is abounding in mercy is more merciful and sympathetic. /We need to live properly before God, receiving his love and mercy. /God says, "It is the time to seek the LORD...break up your fallow ground."

/The verse tells Israel to return to God and listen to him if Israel has realized its sin. / "Break up your fallow ground" means changing everything about our lives. /It means to start living a holy, spiritual life from now on.

/The message is telling us to break up our hearts that have never been plowed. /Then, God will pour down the rains of grace. /The verse says, "That he may come and rain righteousness upon you."

/If we become aware of our sin and return to God, repenting of our sin, then God will pour out his grace and make us righteous. /Although we have failed and walked down the wrong path, God gives his beloved children a final chance.

/He has prepared rains of grace for those who repent and return to him. /Even now, it is not too late to return. /God may have decided to carry out his judgment, but there is still a chance to avoid it.

/We need to overcome our stubbornness, our ways, and our thoughts and come before God. /Then, God will show us grace. /We need to accept this message as a message God has given to us. /Verses 13-15 are about God's extermination of those who plow iniquity and trust in warriors.

/Verses 13-14. /You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors, therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed, as Shalman destroyed Beth-arbel on the day of battle; mothers were dashed in pieces with their children.

/If Israel repents and comes back to God, God will pour down his grace like rain as a response to their apology. /But when they do not return, plowing iniquity and trusting in warriors, God will judge them.

/God's judgment was near, but they wrongly believed they had power and a way. /In verse 14, Israel does not trust in God, so God says he will destroy everything.

/As the message says, Assyria invaded Israel. /A nation that was peaceful became chaotic, and fortresses were destroyed. /Israel became a pile of ruins. /Israel's big cities as well as its smaller cities were destroyed, and mothers and children were together dashed in pieces. /Israel experienced this gruesome reality.

/Verse 15. /Thus it shall be done to you, O Bethel, because of your great evil. At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

/Bethel was a place that bountifully received God's grace. /But when Bethel became a place that worshiped the golden calf, God turned it into a place of judgment. /The verse says, "At dawn the king of Israel shall be utterly cut off."

/This can be interpreted to mean that during a hopeful time like dawn, Israel will perish. /Israel, a young nation that has not fulfilled its dreams, met its downfall.

/We must learn a lesson from these historic events. /Hosea's message is God's message for me. /As I was preparing this message, I came to realize many things.

/Beloved believers, I hope that you too understand these things. /We all need to repent of our sin and return to God. /That way, we will receive God's blessings.

/Now we will begin the lecture on Hosea 11. /The title of Hosea 11 is "Bands of Love." /As God loves Israel, he loves us today. /Hosea 11 is about God's expectation and disappointment.

/The Israelites received God's grace, but they betrayed him. /Hosea prophesied that God would punish Israel for serving idols. /Israel received God's grace, but it did not live as a nation that received grace.

/God brought out his whip because he loved Israel. /He wanted Israel to return to him even if it meant hurting them with the whip.

/God once again urges Israel, a treacherous nation that has forgotten God's love and has forgotten how to give thanks. /In verses 1-4, God says he will lead Israel with bands of love.

/Verse 1. Please read. /When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

/ “When Israel was a child” is talking about the time when Israel was weak and immature. /When Israel could not escape Egypt on its own, God’s grace brought them out of Egypt.

/God did not save us because we are worthy of being saved. /It is by God’s mercy that we are saved. /Romans 5:8 says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

/When we were impure and behaved like enemies of God, God called us to him. /When Israel was young, God brought Israel out of Egypt because he loved Israel. /When we were sinners, when we failed, and when we were weak, God saved us.

/Along with the salvation God has given us, he also gave us a calling. /God took us in as his sons. /He calls us his son. /How blessed are we to be called this? /It is a name that even angels admire. /We need to live with the pride of being called his son.

/Verse 2. /The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

/God led the Israelites into Canaan and called for them to return. /Through his prophets, God led them to live appropriate lives. /However, when God called to them, they went further away.

/God loved his people and called them his sons, but Israel went in the opposite direction. /Israel walked the path that God despised. /We too need to be careful. /When we are blessed, it becomes easier for us to be prideful and to leave God.

/There are many instances where God graces someone and makes them rich, but they end up betraying his grace. /We need to live proper lives that are in accordance with God’s holy calling. /We need to make efforts to pray, read the Bible, and help others.

/The Apostle Paul confessed that everything he has is due to the grace of God. /As Paul worked hard for God, we too must work hard as we receive grace. /There is a hymn that I really like. /It is hymn 372.

/When we take a look at the hymn, it says “A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify.” /It says, “A never-dying soul to save.” /Furthermore, the hymn reads, “To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill.” / “O may it all my powers engage to do my master’s will!”

/Yesterday, our church had an office-holders’ meeting. /We sang the hymn during the meeting, and I sang it because I wanted my life and the believers’ lives to say the hymn’s confessions.

/You too are children who are called by the Holy God. /I hope that you live appropriately according to your calling.

/Verse 3. /Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

/Here, God speaks of his deep love. /If someone walks on a crooked road, we tend to abandon that person. /However, God again and again raises those who stumble like he is teaching a child how to walk.

/It says, “Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk.” / “I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.” /Like a person teaching a child how to walk, God personally teaches us to walk.

/When the Israelites stumbled and injured themselves, God raised them up and protected them. /God sent the great prophets Elijah and Elisha to help the corrupt Israel.

/God does not leave us to ourselves so that we may become tough, but he teaches us how to walk. /If he leaves us alone, we cannot do our duties as human beings. /We must see that God is training us through all the moments of our lives.

/We must not think of life as an exhausting process. /We need to be shaped in the environment we are currently in. /When God calls us, he does not mean for us to simply enjoy a comfortable life.

/He calls his people so that they may live holy and distinguished lives. /God called us so we may give off the scent of God, serve him, give glory to God, and to build the kingdom of God.

/Verse 4. /I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

/When God was leading his people, he led them with bands of love. /Israel did not know where to go. /God led them with bands of love like a lamb led with a leash around its neck.

/We are like sheep, and we cannot live without a shepherd. /Sheep cannot survive on their own. /God must lead us with a leash around our necks. /God says, “I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws.” /God must also ease the yoke on our jaws.

/We cannot remove the yoke with our own strength. /The verse says, “I bent down to them and fed them.” /God not only guided Israel and its freedom, but he also gave them food to eat.

/God saves us, but he does not leave us alone after that. /He is a good God who gives us the needs of our spirit and body. /We need to remember God’s love. /God took Israel out of Egypt and accepted Israel as his son.

/The Lord taught Israel how to walk and lifted Israel when it fell down. /When they were hurting, God healed them. /God put his bands of love around their necks and guided them along the proper paths. /Also, he eased the yoke on their jaws.

/Furthermore, God gave them plenty of food to eat. /God called them to him, and he gave them grace time and time again. /He gave to Israel everything they needed. /But Israel abandoned God and worshiped idols.

/This is an act of betraying God's grace. /We should give thanks to God and praise him when we receive grace. /Israel pushed aside its love for God. /In verses 5-7, Israel betrays grace and turns away from God.

/Verse 5. /They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me.

/When we are saved from the world, we must not go back into the world. /However, Israel went back into the world. /They were caught in the world, and they were to suffer in the hands of Assyria as they suffered in Egypt.

/When God's people leave God, they suffer in the world and are caught in a trap. /Israel did not like being trained by God. /They did not like living in holiness. /They desired to live in the ways of the Egyptians, so they went into the world.

/Verse 6. /The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels.

/Because God's people did not trust in the Lord but trusted in the world, God plans to destroy the things of the world. /Israel planned to live in a world without God. /But God plans to destroy their foundations.

/We must not seek happiness in anything other than God. /God destroys whatever human schemes we devise. /We need to depend on God in the same way David did.

/In faith, David listened to God and cut the hamstring of horses. /In human eyes, this can seem like a huge loss, but it wasn't. /God was David's strength, wisdom, and power.

/We need to be innocent and trust in God in our lives. /When we make human plans to live comfortably, God may punish us.

/Verse 7. /My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.

/God was sad that the people of Israel left God, so he sent prophets to bring the people back to him. /However, "he shall not raise them up at all."

/God sent Elijah, Elisha, and other prophets. /But Israel did not return. /In verses 8-11, God reveals his mercy in the midst of his wrath.

/Verse 8. /How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

/God says, “How can I give you up, O Ephraim?” / “How can I hand you over, O Israel?” /God passionately loves Israel. /God is in conflict in the verse.

/He says, “My heart recoils within me.” /He is deciding whether he should destroy the Israelites like he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, or if he is to show them mercy. /God says, “How can I give you up?”

/The Lord says, “My compassion grows warm and tender.” /Israel betrayed God, but God’s love did not change. /When we behave like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, we deserve God’s wrath.

/But God’s persevering love stops his wrath. /If God had not let us be, we would have become like Sodom and Gomorrah. /He says, “My compassion grows warm and tender.”

/We can see how God loved the Israelites and pitied them. /His compassion was warm and tender. /He in particular sent the prophet Hosea to bring his people back to him.

/We must understand God’s burning love for us. /We must understand that God showed his great love by giving us his only son Jesus Christ to die for us. /The Israelites sinned and made God very angry.

/But God did not abandon them, but he took out his whip to have them come back to him. /God never abandons his children. /Through this message, we must realize that God loves us.

/Verse 9. /I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

/God says, “For I am God and not a man.” /The Lord is saying he is God. /If he were human, he would already have given up. /But because God is the Almighty God, he heals us instead of giving up on us.

/Thus God heals and makes things new. /God is Almighty, and his love for us never gives up. /Here, we have our real hope.

/Verse 10. /They shall go after the LORD; he will roar like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west;

/When God says he roars like a lion, it means the whole world will hear his roar. /If God urges them like this, they cannot help but return to him. /They will come back from the far lands of the west.

/God loudly calls to us through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. /Israel strayed from God, but God calls to them with an even greater love. /This is God's warm and tender compassion.

/Verse 11. /they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, declares the LORD.

/Israel had left God and had gone to Egypt and Assyria. /Even still, God is saying they will return to him when he calls to them. /They will return trembling like birds and doves to God.

/This means that there will be a rapid movement of repentance. /By God's power, he will call people from all the ends of the earth. /In the spiritual sense, the message is saying that people from foreign nations will repent.

/These people from foreign nations will repent and dwell in the house of God. /Israel will be taken captive to Assyria. /However, unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, Israel will not collapse. /In the future, after hearing the good news, they will return.

/God says many people will return to him. /God calls us, and he gives us a place to rest in his house. //We need to realize that we have received grace and be grateful. /Verse 12 records Israel and Judah's bad habits.

/Verse 12. /Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit, but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One.

/Ephraim told lies and Israel acted in deceit. /The people of Judah were also unsure about their faithful and holy God. /God's love for Israel burned like a fire.

/But the people did not completely choose God. /Also, they were not truthful. /They deceived God as well. /God had a burning love for them. /With his love, God carried out his deeds.

/The people of Israel left God and wandered around indecisively. /They treated God with lies and deceit. /This is how we are today. /Compared to God's love, how great is our love?

/We have so little love within us. /We lie too much. /We are indecisive. /Our hearts are narrow-minded. /We are good at rejecting God's grace. /Our hearts are fickle.

/When we look at ourselves, there seems to be no hope. However, our hope is in God alone. /God loves us unconditionally. /God is sincere with us. /God will treat us the same until eternity.

/Our hope is our God's unchanging love and grace. /We need to grasp this love and grace and have our hearts return to him.

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