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## SERMON RESOURCES

**Sunday, June 30, 2013**

**Unrelenting Love: Hosea, Gomer and God's Passion for Broken People**

### **Central Text:**

<sup>2</sup> When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD."

<sup>3</sup> So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said to him, "Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. <sup>5</sup> And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel."

<sup>6</sup> She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the LORD said to him, "Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. <sup>7</sup> But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen."

<sup>8</sup> When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said, "Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God."

<sup>10</sup> Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God." <sup>11</sup> And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea 1:2-11 (ESV)

### **Questions for Reflection and Discussion:**

1. Many people find it difficult to accept that God would command Hosea to marry such a promiscuous, faithless woman. Why do you think God did? What truth was shown to the people of Israel through the story of Hosea and Gomer that couldn't have been otherwise?

2. Talk about the names of the children and what they mean. What do you make of the meaning of

Hosea's name being 'salvation'?

3. Look at the imagery in chapter 2 about the consequences of Gomer's sins and the discipline of God on Israel and all disciples. Have you experienced or are you experiencing this?

4. Why must God's love be jealous, rescuing and contradicting? What would be lost if it was any different? Try to imagine someone loving you and yet not caring if you were faithful or whether you destroyed yourself and all your relationships. What would it be like to be in that relationship? What would trust look like?

5. In what ways do you identify with Hosea and how is that supposed to lead us to contrition before God?

6. How is Gomer not only a reminder of our failure but a promise of our hope? How is Hosea's and God's love clearly displayed? How has that been demonstrated in your own life?

7. How do we see all that is taught here even more clearly in Christ? How does he pursue and embrace you even more powerfully? What greater price did he pay to redeem you?

8. Notice that Hosea renews his promise to Gomer but also calls her to leave her lifestyle. What might be God's call on your life right now?

9. God uses Gomer's marriage to explain the Gospel more clearly to them and us. How might you use it when talking with others who are seeking?

10. Have sin and failure ever left you feeling unredeemable, unlovable and unsalvageable? Consider how God wants to inspire you by this story. And/or are there Gomers around you to whom He wants you to extend grace?

**Additional Resources and Art Forms:**

[Video: Song of Gomer \(Michael Card\)](#)

[Video: "Wedding Dress" \(Derek Webb\)](#)

[Video: "The Hosea Love Story"](#)

**Questions about your spiritual journey? Need to talk with someone?**

**Email Pastor Steve: [shawkins@brcmarion.org](mailto:shawkins@brcmarion.org)**