

Go, take to yourself an
adulterous wife

Hosea 1:2-3

Really!?

- How could a loving Lord, perfect in all His ways, ask someone to do something against His Word and nature?
- Exodus 20:14, the seventh commandment forbids adultery.
- Leviticus 21:7 prohibits priests from marrying harlots.
- Yet the Lord commands Hosea to do that very thing! 1:2

Things to consider

- Hosea wrote in concise, short language, so it seems that he isn't giving us enough details to help us understand why he is asked to do such a thing.
- He obviously wrote this letter after the events happened. 1:2 "When the Lord first spoke," points back to when Hosea first started his work.
- These events really took place and are not an allegory as some have suggested.
- According to Hebrew scholars, Gomer wasn't a harlot when Hosea married her, but became one afterward, and reads that harlotry was within her-which would appear later in the story.

The Children

- So Hosea married Gomer and they have their first born son, Jezreel, meaning “scattered.” Second born is a girl, Lo-ruhamah, meaning “not loved” or “no compassion.” Third born is a son, Lo-ammi, meaning, “not my people.” Remember that Hosea was a prophet to Israel, the northern ten tribes, but Judah is mentioned. Hosea wrote this letter a few years before Israel was taken captive in 722 BC.
- The three names explain the situation of Israel: about to be scattered because of their adulterous/idolatrous lifestyle, no longer loved by YHWH because He has lost his compassion for them, and so they will no longer be His people-or so it seems by the surrounding nations.

Gomer

- Gomer was faithful to raise her children, but her real nature finally appeared, and so ran off to an adulterous affair. Here again is the nature of Israel: raised by YHWH, loved, then ran off to pagan worship.
- Hosea, 3:1-3, has to purchase Gomer back for 15 shekels, then love her again as at first, after she has purified herself. The nature of YHWH? He will forgive Israel after her purification period is over, and love her again as at first. Verses 4-5.

Conclusion

- This is a challenging word which some prophets were called to do, but this turns out to be a beautiful relational story of how the Lord is patient to a point, has to discipline His children, then bring them back into a loving relationship.
- Sometimes we too are called upon to do unexplainable calls from the Holy Spirit that we don't understand at the time, but if we are faithful to carry out His command, we will be blessed in the end. And it is all for our good! We grow when our faith is challenged and stretched. It is called, "maturing in the faith."
- Point? Be faithful, don't resist, obey so the blessings can flow from above to us below.