February 2, 2014 Sermon Application handout
"What God Really Wants"
Hosea 5-6

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, spend some time in prayer. Pray that the Lord will move you to cultivate a loyal love for Him. Pray that you will remember to dwell upon his deep love for you today.

2. What did you apply from last week's lesson?

3. Read Chapter 5 and make some observations. Who does God address at the beginning of this chapter? What is His exhortation to them? How bad had their idolatry become? Which region of Israel received special attention? How will God deal with Israel?

II. God's D_____(Hosea 5:1-15)

4. According to verse 4, how enslaved to idols had the nation of Israel become? What was at the root of their idolatry?

5. Who does Hosea expose in verse 5 as the violator of God's covenant? What heart attitude is exposed and ends up testifying against them?

6. List some of the consequences of their sin of pride and idolatry (vv. 6-11).

7. Pride says, “I am the source of what is good, right, and worthy of praise.” What were some of the behaviors and actions that were manifested from Israel’s heart? Do any of these manifestations exist in your own heart? Be specific.

8. Although God continues to describe the progress of his judgment (vv. 12-15), what important information do we learn about God in verse 15? What hope does He extend to Israel? Why is Hosea compelled to appeal to the people following this verse (6:1-3)?

III. Hosea’s I_____(Hosea 6:1-3)

9. The first appeal that Hosea gives in verse 1 to the people is for them to “return to the Lord.” Look up the verse below and explain in your own words what Hosea has in mind. How is this action connected to genuine repentance? Is it more than just “not” doing something bad?

   1 Thessalonians 1:9

10. What is Yahweh (the Lord) willing to do if there is genuine repentance according to verse 2? What does that involve and look like today (see 1 Peter 2:24)?

11. What is the second command Hosea has brought to the people in verse 3 that is connected to a genuine repentance?

12. The phrase “to press on and know the Lord” has the idea of chasing, pursuing, or striving zealously to obtain. It also has the idea of loving fervently and building a relationship with. How might the believer pursue the Lord in this way today? (See Philippians 3:7-14 and Galatians 2:20 to get a glimpse of how Paul responded). Are you pursuing the Lord in this way?

13. Take time to examine your heart. Based on what you have just studied, would you say this is this why you exist? Do you pursue Christ and desire to be in relationship with Him? Believing by faith in the finished work of Christ is not only about being saved from the wrath of God to come but it's also about being in fellowship with Him. Is this a relationship that you are pursuing now (1 John 1:7)? Explain why or why not.

IV. God's E_____(Hosea 6:4-11)

14. According to verse 6, what does God allow us to understand about what He wants from His people? What does He take pleasure and delight in? Cross-reference with Deut. 5:29; 10:12; Mt. 22:34-38; and 1 Tim. 1:5. How can this be lived out in your own life today?

15. Read Matthew 12:1-7. Observe ways in which the Pharisees missed the mark with regard to what the Lord desires from His people. Taking this into account, list out some of the ways in which you often miss the mark.

16. All you say, and all you do, and all you think must be motivated by a stead-fast love (*chesed)* for the Lord. That is to be your goal (1 Tim. 1:5)! This is what we are to keep before us, we can't lose sight of, and we must hold onto. This is so important that God sent his own beloved Son to die on the cross for our sins so that in Christ, we might begin to cultivate a loyal love for Him. How are you cultivating and fostering this today in your own life, in your family, and in your church?

RESOURCES

Specific Resources for Hosea

Hosea by Derek Kidner
Hosea: the Heart and Holiness of God by G. Campbell Morgan
With Bands of Love by David Allan Hubbard

General Resources for the Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice
The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg
The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood
Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard
A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer
Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr
The Ultimate Priority on Worship by John MacArthur
Knowing God by J.I. Packer