St Martins C3 – October 25, 2026
Hosea – Faithfulness – Minor Prophets

Sermon Notes:

Over the next six weeks, we will explore six of the Minor Prophets. Here are some hot tips on how to read them:

1 – Understand the Prophet's Purpose

Prophets weren't just fortune tellers; they were social commentators, and covenant watchdogs provoking God's people to return to Him.

2 - Follow the Themes

The books of all 12 Minor Prophets were placed on one scroll, arranged around themes bringing related ideas together.

3 – Put it in Context

If we understand who the Prophets wrote to, we can understand why they said what they did.

4 - Find the Heart of God

As we read their poetic delivery of God's words, we look for the heart of God for His people and for His world.

Hosea

Hosea is the first of the twelve Minor Prophets. He speaks largely to the Northern Kingdom at a time of prosperity and peace shielded their hearts that were distant from God.

God asks Hosea to marry a wayward woman (probably a prostitute) as a symbol of their disobedience.

Read Hosea 1:2-9; 2:5, 8; 4:1-2

The point God is making is that Israel has betrayed him. They are unfaithful to their promises. They are unfaithful to their relationship to him. Sin is not just law breaking it is a betrayal of our relationship with God. It is as devastating as adultery.

Syncretism is mixing together of customs and rituals involved in worshipping different gods. It is when you try and worship two things at the same time. It says I want God and …

Hesed is the word used for loyal love and faithfulness. God shows this faithfulness to His people (2:19), but they didn't show back (4:1). Their faithfulness was like morning mist (6:4), yet it was a key part of their repentance (6:6; 10:12; 12:6). Hesed says God is enough.

Which of the two best describes our approach to God?

Be Faithful to God. Love God above all else.

Read Hosea 6:4-6; Matthew 9:10-13; Hosea 3:1-2; 12:6

Today, come back to God. Commit your heart wholly to Him and thank Him that He has paid the price for our redemption.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

Be Faithful to God. Love God above all else.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

How do you find reading through the Minor Prophets?

Which of the four tips on reading the Minor Prophets do you find most helpful?

What would it have been like to be Hosea?

What might have been going on for Gomer to betray Hosea? Israel's faithfulness was described like the morning mist (6:4), how could yours be described?

What might syncretism look like today?

God desires that we love Him, not just perform religious rituals (6:6). How do you know whether your religious practices express love for Him or are merely routines?

How does the redemption Hosea offers Gomer point us to Jesus?

Monday Devotion: A Dramatic Story

As we read Hosea this week, we are brought into the story of his marriage to an adulterous wife. Pay particular attention to the names of their children, and how they are used to represent Israel's judgement and redemption. Thank God for His love.

Scripture
Hosea 1, 3

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion: Israel Like Gomer

In chapter 2, God shows how Israel is exactly like Hosea's adulterous wife. They have abandoned him, when He desires that they know him relationally. We need to ensure these words do not describe us as well.

Scripture

Hosea 2, 4

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion: Israel's Rebellion

In these chapters, we get more of a picture of the rebellion of Israel. We see that they have abandoned God in dramatic ways. The issue begins with their priests and leaders. Look for consistent themes in these chapters and lessons for us.

Scripture

Hosea 5, 7

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion: Judgment

These words are hard for us to read. Israel has abandoned God and been unfaithful to the covenant. God can tolerate it no longer. He will be the one who orchestrates their destruction. We must realise that God is serious about sin and its consequences.

Scripture
Hosea 8-10

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion: Redemption

While the predominant theme of Hosea is one of rebellion and judgement, there is still time for redemption and mercy. God longs to draw the people of Israel back to Himself. He wants to turn from His anger and show them love. This is the heart of God. It's also His heart towards you today. Will you respond?

Scripture

Hosea 6, 11:1-12; 12:6; 14

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)