



## **THE 12 APOSTLES BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

### **By Brother Ed**

Hosea teaches us the covenantal relationship between God and man is likened to a marriage.

We all started well with a romantic love towards God in the youthful heart with its concentration of all the intensified impulses, forces and desires on one object and obliviousness to all other interests. This resembles the single-minded, world forgetful affection we owe to God. This is true worship. It teaches if Jesus is not our first love then we become an unfaithful wife to Him.

On Sunday, I listened to 5 testimonies: 4 from sisters and 1 from a brother. I was so blessed to be there and benefited a lot from them. A lot of things impressed me: Je Je's attire, youthful love for God, simplicity of the sermons... It reminds me of the time when I first believed and was baptized. It also reminds me of the danger that familiarity can breed contempt.

**Hosea 1** Hosea was married to Gomer, who was later proven to be an unfaithful wife. Hosea had to "live out his ministry" for all to see. This is the cost of discipleship. Gomer bore three sons:

**Jezreel** ("God will sow")

**Lo-Ruhamah** ("No mercy")

**Lo-Ammi** ("Not my people")

From this Chapter, we get great affirmation of hope that God will gather His people and claim them once again, show them mercy. The name of their children will be changed to "May people" and "Mercy"

### **Hosea 2 and 3**

**I will have no mercy** (2:1-8) Israel worshipped idols; God withheld mercy.

**I will punish her** (2:9-13) God took away His blessing; land's fruitfulness.

**I will allure her** (2:14-29; 3:1-5) Hosea reclaimed His wife. So, God will one day reclaim His people, renew His marriage vows and restore blessing. Only after Israel suffered greatly at the hands of Gentiles.

**I will sow her** (2:21-3:5): God's planting His people again to bear fruits in the land (His Vineyard)

*Unfaithful wife: I will go and return to my first husband (2:7)*



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### **Applications:**

- 1. Return to our first love, we can enjoy the first blessings.**
- 2. Also, remember not only Jesus is our husband, He is also our King and God.**
- 3. We are to dwell in His Temple and throne room to worship. We shall be built together as living stones into His Temple on earth, bearing fruits for Him & obeying Him;**
- 4. We are chosen by God to be His special possession, and receive God Himself as our a gift as our possession.**

Verse of the day today June 23, 2021:

Rev 2:4-5 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. (5) Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Verse of the day today June 20, 2021:

Hos 14:8b I am [God is] like a green cypress tree; Your fruit is found in Me.