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**Date: October 29, 2017**

**Sermon Title: The Prostitute God Loves**

**Speaker: Richard Smith**

**Scripture text(s): Hosea 1, 2, 3**

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1. If Hosea represents God and Gomer represents Israel, what is the message of Hosea 1?
2. Hosea and Gomer had 3 children. What is the significance of their names?
  1. Jezreel...Hosea 1:4-5
  2. Lo-Ruhamah...Hosea 1:6-7
  3. Lo-Ammi...Hosea 1:8-9
3. What's wrong with the statement, "God accepts you into his family unconditionally." If God does not accept people unconditionally, what, then, are his conditions? Read Acts 2:37-38. According to these verses, what are the conditions on coming to God?
4. Hosea 1:1-9 describes the people's sin and judgment that will come. Read Hosea 1:10. What is significant about the future promise in this verse?
5. Read Hosea 1:11. What's the paradox between Jezreel's name in Hosea 1:4 and Hosea 1:11?
  1. Jezreel means "God Plants"
  2. Entrance to the Jezreel Valley is through Megiddo. In Revelation 16, Armageddon means Hill of Megiddo. When Christ returns, the great battle of Armageddon will take place in the valley of Jezreel.
6. Read Hosea 2:5. Why did Gomer pursue other lovers? How are these reasons like the ones people give for breaking their covenants today? Why do we pursue idols?
7. Hosea 2:6-7 is a metaphor of how God blocks us from pursuing things that can harm and hinder us. How does God block us?
8. Hosea 2:8 shows how ungrateful Gomer was with Hosea who had given her so many blessings. What produces an ungrateful spirit in us?
9. Hosea 2:9-13 are verses of God's judgment on Gomer (Israel). Is it right for God to be a God of judgment? Discuss this statement Richard made, "If God didn't judge, we'd perceive by his silence that he is okay with my lifestyle."
10. What did God tell Hosea to do in Hosea 3:1-3? What is significant about 15 shekels?

11. Take time to go through the “Group Prayer Time” section. Ask God to reveal any area of your life that is keeping you from being fully devoted to him.
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### **Group Prayer Time:**

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God’s character reflected in this week’s passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.
2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
4. **Supplication** – God’s Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

### **Pray for Missions:**

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions’ effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

**International Missions – Baptist Medical & Dental Mission International...**Mike & Laura Luke, along with their 5 daughters, serve in Honduras with the Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International. Mike’s background is in computer technology and Laura is a pediatrician. They serve at the Centro Medico de Especialades (Baptist Hospital) in Guaimaca. Many around the world lack the basic necessities of food, shelter, medical and dental care, and education. That’s where the work of BMDMI comes in to meet physical needs while presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the ultimate Healer. For more information, click this link: <http://bmdmi.org>. The Luke’s bio page: <http://bmdmi.org/dbml/missionary.php?id=55>.