

Date: November 5, 2017

Sermon Title: The Loving Argument of God

Speaker: Richard Smith

Scripture text(s): Hosea 4-14

- 1) Hosea 4:6—“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” What is this lack of knowledge? Why are they destroyed?
 - 2) How has our culture rejected God and attempted to replace Him? (Hosea 7:13) In what ways do you reject and replace God?
 - 3) What had the priests done in Hosea 4:6? What is the danger associated with this?
 - 4) In Hosea 9:7 the prophet is looked upon as a fool and a maniac. Why? Discuss how this is becoming more prevalent in our society today.
 - 5) Hosea 4:12 refers to a spirit of prostitution. What did Richard say this term was referring to? What does this lead to and how does it impact a nation as a whole?
 - 6) Richard spoke of “justified disobedience” in Hosea 4:14. What was the example he used from this scripture? Discuss how this way of thinking is idolatry? In what ways have you recognized justified disobedience in your life? In what areas of your life might you be entertaining justified disobedience?
 - 7) The Hebrew word for mercy is “hesed”—God keeps His promises and covenants faithfully despite our unfaithfulness. Read Exodus 34:6, Hosea 6:6, Matthew 9:13, and Romans 5:8. Discuss how these scriptures show God’s “hesed”. Why is it important to understand this Hebrew word? What difference does it make in our lives? How can you show God’s mercy this week?
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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.

Local Missions – This week, pray for Urban Hope that is led by director Kerri Bell. Urban Hope is like an umbrella. It is a nonprofit that covers three ministries. The first ministry is COMMUNITY and it is where volunteers and staff interact and build relationships with youth through a backyard Bible study. By presenting them truth about Jesus Christ, relationships with the youth begin to develop. The staff and volunteers then identify youth who have gifts and leadership qualities that would benefit from a six week long summer CAMP. While in camp, volunteers and staff walk with the youth as they are introduced to different activities in Spartanburg and participate in a deeper knowledge of the Bible through daily Bible study and small group. While in camp, staff and volunteers seek out students who seem willing to learn more about Christ and are interested in pursuing their God given gifts. These students are then asked to go the next step and become part of CLUB. This is where we pour into the youth in a more personal manner by walking with them to help build their relationship with Christ and their education. Our vision for these students is to inspire them and their families to reach their full potential in Jesus Christ. For more information, check out <https://www.urbanhopesc.org>.