

The Holy One in Your Midst

Hosea 10 and 11

Read Hosea 10:1-2.

1. According to verse 1, what did Israel do with the prosperity (fruit) God blessed them with?

v. 1c _____

v. 1d _____

2. How can we use the blessings of God to “increase our altars” and “embellish our sacred pillars”?

3. How was it that they were able to take what Yahweh had blessed them with and use it for sin? (v. 2)

Divided – smooth, slippery, of the heart of faithless Israel

4. Read the following verses and record what you learn about having a divided heart.

James 1:8 _____

Matthew 6:24 _____

5. **THINK:** Consider each of the following categories and record how you think a divided heart could affect each of them.

Fellowship with God:

Being an effective witness for God:

Spiritual growth and stability:

6. How did David deal with his divided heart? (Psalm 86:11)

7. What are James' instructions when it comes to dealing with a divided heart and mind? (James 4:8-10)

8. What were the consequences of Israel's divided heart? (v. 2)

Read Hosea 10:3-8.

Israel broke their promises to God; likewise, they fell into a habit of breaking their promises to men and other nations. Soon they would have no king, but even if they did, he could do nothing to rescue them. Having failed to keep their word, no nation would come to their aid.

9. **THINK:** Why do you think people make promises they do not intend to keep? Why do you think people break some promises so easily?

10. What were the consequences of their "swearing falsely"?

v. 3b,d _____

v. 4 _____

11. **THINK:** Why do you think it is important for Christians to keep their word and fulfill their promises? Find some verses to support your answer.

12. They might not have a king to help them, but they could always depend on their gods! Or could they? Record what would happen to their idols.

5d _____

6a _____

8a _____

8b _____

Read Hosea 10:9-11.

Once again, God calls on Israel to see and recognize their sin. At one point, the tribes of Israel united to fight the tribe of Benjamin, seeking to end their great sin. (Judges 20) While they took action against the tribe of Benjamin, they failed to see their own sin.

13. How would God respond to their failure to acknowledge their sin and repent? (v. 10)

Chasten – discipline

Bind – tie, harness, harness them to their two iniquities

14. **THINK:** Why do you think it pleases God to chastise His children?

15. How does God describe Ephraim in verse 11a?

16. Read Hosea 10:11 in several different versions and record what is meant by this verse.

God will not only deal with Israel's sins but also with Judah's. Having used their freedom to commit spiritual harlotry, God would now use the neighboring nations as heavy yokes to rule over and tame them.

17. Can you recall a time when God had to place a yoke of correction around your neck to bring you back into His will after playing the harlot?

Read Hosea 10:12-15.

18. What two things did the Lord invite and encourage Israel to do?

v. 12a _____

v. 12c _____

Fallow Ground – untilled ground

Seek – seek the one true God in prayer and worship

19. For years, the Children of Israel had been sowing the seeds of sin, which would ultimately lead to their reaping judgment. What would they reap if they chose to sow righteousness?

20. **THINK:** What do you think it looks like to sow righteousness?

21. **THINK HARDER:** What do you think it looks like to break up the fallow ground?

22. God's invitation was ignored. What did they do instead, and how did it happen?
(v. 13)

23. How would their decision to trust in their own way play out? (v. 14-15)

Read Hosea 11:1-7.

How is it that Israel failed to recognize the indescribable love and long-suffering of Yahweh? A look back would surely remind them.

24. How did God nurture Israel when they were a young nation?

v. 1 _____

v. 3a,b _____

v. 4 _____

25. **THINK:** What do you think "Egypt" represented for the Israelites?

26. Consider what you know about the Exodus and the time spent in the wilderness. How did God teach them to walk, draw them with gentle cords, take the yoke from their necks, and stoop and feed them? (Exodus 6:1-8, Exodus 13:21-22, Exodus 14:13-16, Exodus 15:24-25, Exodus 16:13-15, Deut. 8:4-5. Deut. 30:20)

How did Israel ultimately respond? (Hosea 11:2)

Israel showed their ungratefulness to God. They refused to listen to His prophets; they flirted with the things of the world to the point of committing harlotry with them. Their ungratefulness reaped a harvest of ignorance, and they no longer knew Him or how He had once healed them.

27. Is expressing gratitude to God a part of your daily life? If not, what steps can you take to make it a priority?

28. Read verses 5-6, then record what would happen and why.

| What Would Happen | Why it Would Happen |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| v. 5b | v. 5c |
| v. 6a,b,c | v. 6d |

29. When God considered the Children of Israel, what two things did He find to be true? (v. 7)

Bent – huge or swung toward turning from

Backsliding – turning away, turning back, apostasy,

Exalt – lift up

30. **THINK:** What do you think “They call to the Most High, None at all exalt Him” looks like in day-to-day life?

31. **THINK HARDER:** What do you think God's assessment would be of the church today? Give examples to support your thoughts.

32. What would God's assessment be of you?

33. God longs to draw you into a closer relationship with Him. What keeps or has kept you from drawing closer to God?

Read Hosea 11:8-12.

34. Describe the heart of God revealed by the questions in verse 8.

35. Israel was prone to backsliding, worshiping idols, burning incense to carved images, and refusing to repent. They had earned and deserved the full brunt of God's fiercest anger, **but** what was the reality of God's heart toward them? (v. 8e,f; 9a,b)

In God's mercy, even though He would execute judgment on Israel for their sin, He would not completely wipe out His people. He would preserve a remnant and restore them as a nation again in the future.

36. Why did God decide to handle things this way? (9c,d)

37. What promise of hope for Israel is found in verses 10-11?

This promise of the Lord will be fulfilled at the end of the 7-year tribulation, when the Jews earnestly seek the Lord and recognize Jesus as their Messiah.

38. At this point in Hosea's prophecy, what are the differences between Israel (Ephraim) to the north and Judah to the south?

39. At this point, Judah continued to walk with God. Read the following verses and record what you learn about how we can walk with God.

Deuteronomy 5:33 _____

Psalm 1:1 _____

Micah 6:8 _____

Ephesians 2:10 _____

40. Despite everything that had happened in Israel and Judah, what remained true about their God?

41. Read Psalm 136. Write down everything this Scripture teaches us about God, then record how we should respond.

A Closer Look at Trusting in Your Own Way

Hosea 10:13

As we see in Hosea 10:13, Israel had plowed wickedness, reaped iniquity, and eaten the fruit of lies, all because they trusted in their own way. We live in a culture that constantly encourages us to “believe in yourself,” “love yourself,” “follow your heart,” “live your truth,” plus any other mantras. This is quite the opposite of what the Bible teaches us. It is crucial that we do not heed the wisdom of the world but instead follow the truth of God’s Word.

43. What does Proverbs 28:26a tell us about one who trusts in her own heart?

44. According to Proverbs 16:18, what causes a fall and destruction?

45. Read Proverbs 12:15a. How is one described who is *right in their own eyes*?

46. Can you think of a time when you followed your own ways and desires? What was the result?

47. Sometimes, *following your own heart* can seem like a good thing. It may yield success and even short-term happiness. But what is the reality according to Matthew 16:26?

48. Read Romans 3:10-12. What is the truth about who we are apart from God?

49. Read Romans 5:8-11. Our sinful state is bad news, but what is the good news?

In our effort to walk worthy of the Lord, we need to stop living for ourselves and instead live for God who provides everything we need.

50. What do the following verses teach us about where and how to redirect our trust?
Proverbs 3:5-6

Matthew 16:24

John 14:1,6

John 6:63

Letting go of our own ways and desires can be challenging. Trusting in the Lord with all our hearts is an act of discipline. You may have a firm grip on your ways that need to be surrendered to the Lord. The benefits of releasing control and trusting fully in God will be freeing, as it leads to straight paths and an abundant life.

51. What do you have a tight grip on? Is it your future, your career, your sins, your worries, your hurts?

I have learned to hold all things loosely, so God will not have to pry them out of my hands.

- Corrie ten Boom

52. Using the Scriptures from this lesson, what steps must you take to release what you hold dear that is preventing you from fully trusting in God?

As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

- Psalm 18:30