



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 084 - "You Want Me to Marry a What?" (Hosea 1-3)

Last week we saw the prophet Amos focus on the symptoms of Israel's disease (its abuse of the poor, widows, orphans and foreigners).

- Describe some of the symptoms of sin in our lives.
- What types of sins do you find most difficult to control (anger, jealousy, greed, etc.)?
- What is the danger of working on controlling only these symptoms while ignoring the disease or root cause of those sins?

Hosea focuses on our sinful nature that leads us to commit all the individual sins we do. God illustrated that by directing him to marry an adulterous woman.

- Describe the emotions a husband would experience finding his wife with her lover.
- How much worse would that hurt be if he came across e-mails or phone messages where she expressed her thoughts and feelings for her lover?
- How does knowing all our unfaithful thoughts, desires, words and deeds lie exposed before God shed a new light as you think about the wrath of God?
- When God gave us the Ten Commandments He said, "... I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God" (Exodus 20:5b). How does Hosea's experience with Gomer help us understand what He means?

The incredible thing of Hosea is that God did not tell him to punish Gomer or send her away, but to go and buy her back. God could well have destroyed us in His righteous wrath, or abandoned us to our destructive lovers. Instead, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to buy us back through the blood He shed for us on the cross. That brings new depth to John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

- God could not simply set aside His jealous wrath; someone had to be punished. Discuss why Jesus had to suffer so terribly to save us from our sins.
- In speaking of His death and resurrection in John 10:17-18a, Jesus said these words, "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. ..." How does Jesus' willingness to die and rise again for us give us confidence when guilt rises in our minds?