

HAVE YOU SEEN HER

HOSEA 3:1 says:

¹Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of *her* friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE TITLE OF TODAY'S SERMON COMES FROM A VERY POPULAR SONG FROM THE SIXTIES OR SEVENTY'S.

IT WAS SONG BY THE DELPHONICS AND THE CHI-LITES WHO WERE BLUE SINGING GROUPS AND IT WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL SONG. IT ALSO SHOWED SOME REAL POETRY IN ACTION...LISTEN FOR A MINUTE AT THE WORDS.

“ONE MONTH AGO TODAY, I WAS HAPPY AS A LARK. BUT TODAY AS I SAT ON THE PARK BENCH WAITING FOR HER RETURN, I ASK EVERYONE WHO PASSES ME BY... HAVE YOU SEEN HER.?

I EVEN TELL MYSELF THAT SHE WILL BE BACK TODAY, BUT AGAIN I LIED...HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

I SEE HER FACE EVERYWHERE I GO ON THE BUS AND EVEN HEAR HER VOICE ON THE RADIO... AND I ASK .HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

TELL ME WHY OH WHY DID YOU HAVE TO GO AWAY? YOU KNOW THAT I LOVED YOU SO...I HAD SOMEONE TO LEAN ON, NOW YOU'RE GONE...HAVE YOU SEEN HER? TELL ME HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

AGAIN, I HEAR HER VOICE EVERYWHERE I GO...HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS HOSEA TELLS US ABOUT A VERY HARD LUCK LOVE STORY. A STORY WHERE A MAN IS TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHO HAS NO INTEREST IN BEING HIS LOVER, WIFE OR THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILDREN.

OH YES, SHE WILL PLAY THE GAME BECAUSE SHE KNOWS HOW TO GET WHAT SHE WANTS, BUT THERE IS NO REAL, OR SPIRITUAL LOVE IN THIS WOMAN FOR THIS MAN. SHE JUST DOESN'T LOVE HIM BUT KNOWS HOW TO USE HER FEMALE WILDS TO GET HER WAY. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS HOSEA MARRIES A WOMAN OF MANY LOVERS. A WOMAN WHO LOVES WHAT MONEY CAN BUY. WHILE

LOVING ANOTHER AT THE SAME TIME.A MONEY MAKING WOMAN FOR HER RELIGIOUS TEMPLE, BELIEFS AND WAY OF LIFE.HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS SHE LOVES WHOEVERWILL GIVES HER THE MONEY AND AS SUCH SHE HAS MANY LOVERS.SHE IS AN ADULTRESS AND PROUD OF IT. SHE CAN'T BE HONEST WITH OR TO ONE MAN.IT'S NOT IN HER BONES OR HER DNA, SHE IS A PLAYER. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

BUT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I HAVE TO ALSO TELL YOU THAT THIS WAS GOD'S WAY OF SHOWING HIS CHILDREN IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM THAT HE WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THEIR IDOLATRY AND OR ADULTOUS WAYS, THAT THEY HAD TO CHANGE THEIR WAYS OF LIVING AND WAYS OF WORSHIPPING...HAVE YOU SEEN HER OR HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

THEY WERE LIKE PROSTITUTES LOVING FIRST GOD AND THEN BAALIM WHICH WERE SINFUL DAYS,DURING WHICH ISRAEL FORGOT THE LORD AND MADE IDOLATROUS AND OFTEN LEWD PRACTICES PART OF THEIR RELIGIOUS LIFE,BY TEMPLE SEX AND SUCH ACTIVITIES.

GOD COULD NOT SIT IDLY BY WHEN HIS NAME WAS BEING DESECRATED.HE HAD TO SEND ISRAEL A MESSAGE SHOWING HIS DISPLEASURE OF THEM.THUS HOSEA WAS WRITTEN, AND HE IS A COMTEMPARY OF AMOS, MICAH AND ISAIAH.

I ASK YOU CHURCH HAVE YOU SEEN HER?THIS WILD WOMAN WHO WOULD TURN HER BACK UPON A MARRIAGE WITH GOD.BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT GOD WAS MARRIED TO THE CHURCH AND HIS WORSHIPPERS EVEN DURING THE TIME OF MOSES, AND EVEN DURING THE TIME OF ADAM AND EVE.BUT THE CHURCH TURNED IT'S BACK TO GOD.YOU KNOW THE STORY.

IT IS THE ROCK UPON WHICH WE STAND, THAT IS THE CHURCH OF GOD, HIS FIRST LOVE. IN LOVE GOD SAYS TO ISRAEL, "I WILL PERSUADE MY LOVERS WITH ENDEARING WORDS TO TURN THEM FROM THEIR IDOLS AND HELP THEM TO FIND JOY IN ME".

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ISN'T IT A SHAME THAT THE ISRAELITES DID NOT FEEL A NEED FOR HIM, A NEED TO KNOW HIM, FOR GOD IS OUR HUSBAND PROVIDER, HE IS MARRIED TO THE CHURCH AND IS ALSO OUR FATHER.

WHAT WE SEE HERE IS THAT THE GRIEVED LOVER DESIRED TO WIN BACK THE OBJECT OF HIS LOVE.HE WANTS TO ISOLATE HER SO SHE COULD HEAR HIS VOICE WITHOUT DISTRACTION, TO SPEAK INTO HER HEART, HIS LOVE FOR HER. YOU DON'T HEAR ME! NO MATTER HAPPENED THAT HE REALLY AND TRULY LOVED HER.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS GOD SAID, "I WILL REMARRY YOU, AND THIS MARRIAGE WILL NOT BE LIKE THE FIRST ONE AND WILL NOT BE BROUGHT TO A VIOLENT END. " I WILL LOVE YOU FOREVER."

THIS MARRIAGE IS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, NOT A MERE SENTIMENT, BUT BASED UPON A RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIP.LIKE GOD LOVED US, HOSEA WAS URGED TO LOVE THIS WOMAN WHO TURNED HER BACK UPON HIM FOR THE COMPANIONSHIP OF OTHERS.

YES! SHE WAS BELOVED OF HER FRIENDS, BELOVED OF HER PARAMORES, BUT NOT HOSEA. YES! MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, LIKE JESUS, HOSEA WAS CALLED UPON TO LOVE AN ADULTRESS WOMAN, ONE WHO HAD BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO HIM .AS THE CHURCH NOT BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO GOD?

SHE WAS LIKE THE ISRAELITES, WHO CARED MORE ABOUT CAKES OF RAISINS THEN THEY DID THE LORD.GOMER HAD SOLD HERSELF TO THE SEX TEMPLE OF WORSHIP, LIKE THE ISRAELITES HAD SOLD THEMSELVES TO OTHER gods. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHEN HE FOUND HER, HE BROUGHT HER BACK WITH 15 PIECES OF SILVER AND SOME GRAIN...

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY FOR JESUS? DID YOU SAY 30 PIECES OF SILVER? JESUS WASN'T A PROSTITUTE, BUT HE WAS PAYING FOR OUR SINS, BY 30 PIECES OF SILVER, THE PRICE OF A SLAVE, THE PRICE OF A PROSTITUTE. YOU DON'T HEAR ME!!

OUR GOD BROUGHT US BACK FOR 30 PICES OF SILVER BY THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU HEAR ME?

THINK ABOUT IT CHURCH, JESUS CHRIST SAID, "I WILL RANSOM THEM FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE" GOD WILL BE THE VICTOR OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE.DO YOU HEAR ME?

IN 1st CORINTHIANS 15:55, PAUL TELLS US, "O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY"? THE VICTORY IS IN JESUS CHRIST, WHO SAID; "ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND EARTH IS IN MY HANDS".I ASK YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS...HAVE YOU

SEEN HIM? HAVE YOU SEEN THE LORD, MY SAVIOR, HE LIVES.HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?

I ASK PEOPLE DO YOUKNOW HIM? HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? TELL ME DO YOU KNOW HIM? TELL ME THAT YOU HAVE FELT HIM.

I HEAR HIS VOICE EVERYWHERE I GO, EVEN SEE HIM IN MY MIND WHEN I'M ON THE GO, HAVE YOU HEARD HIM?

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW HIM,HAVE YOU GIVEN YOUR LIFE TO HIM,I MEAN REALLY COMMITTED TO HIM,I MEAN CONFESSED TO HIM,I MEAN IS HE THE RULER OF YOUR LIFE?SOME MAY KNOW HIS NAME,BUT NOT KNOW HIM.DO YOU HEAR ME?

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM...DO YOU CALL UPON HIS NAME, DO YOU CALL UPON HIM, DO YOU LOVE HIM AND HIM ALONE? IS HE IN TOTAL CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE? SAY AMEN! SAY AMEN!

GOD IS WATCHING THE DOUBLE TONGUED, GOD IS WATCHING THE LIER TODAY LIKE HE WAS BACK IN HOSEA'S TIME .GOD IS NOT MOCKED, HE KNOWS WHO IS REAL AND WHO IS PLAYING GAMES.

HOSEA'S FAITH WAS COUNTED UP TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HE WAS REWARDED FOR HIS ACTIONS.WHAT ABOUT YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

I THANK GOD, I THANK GOD FOR JESUS AND FOR HIS LOVING KINDNESS TOWARDS US, HIS GRACE, HIS MERCY AND HIS LOVE WHICH FORGAVE US.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WE CAN BE LIKE GOMER, WE CAN CHASE AFTER OTHER LOVERS AND LOVES.

THINGS LIKE LOVE OF POWER, LOVE OF PLEASURE, LOVE OF MONEY, LOVE OF RECOGNITION,AND LOVE OF BEAUTY,BUT THEY WON'T LAST.THE TEMPTATION OF THESE THINGS CAN BE VERY SEDUCTIVE.

I ASK YOU NOW ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH JESUS, ARE YOU REMAINING COMPLETELY FAITHFUL TO HIM, OR HAVE OTHER LOVERS TAKEN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE? I ASK YOU NOW TO STOP PLAYING AROUND ON HIM; HE WANTS TO LOVE YOU NOW AND FOR EVERMORE.HE IS HERE TODAY CALLING FOR YOU TO COME TO HIM AND TO BE LOVED BY HIM FOR EVER. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?