

## Hosea 1:2 Hosea and Gomer 17 07 22 DJK 1441

“Hosea, “Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will show how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods.”

---

Hosea - whose name means “to save” is minding his own business when God comes to him and says, “go and find a prostitute for a wife and have some kids with her”.

It seems he just got up and went – he found Gomer - whose name means “full of evil”. Now Gomer was no ordinary prostitute, it says she was an active prostitute – a willing prostitute. \*(Compared with Israel)

%90 percent of ordinary prostitutes are forced into a dark corner – doing things by force or out of absolute necessity – having addictions, or being threatened, or having no power, no voice, no visa.

But Gomer was an active and willing prostitute – you could say she wasn’t in it for the money!

They got married.

One night Hosea suggested that they go out for the night and have a bit of fun.

Gomer said great, but if you get back before me, leave the light on.

This is Gomer.

Come on good people of Murray Bridge what advice do you give you old friend Hosea? Your son, your brother, your neighbour’s son who’s going to marry an active, willing, prostitute.

You’ve got to say something?

- Don’t be stupid Hosea!
- This is going to end in tears Hosea!
- You’ve got to be joking Hosea!
- Come to your senses Hosea – this is not going to work.

---

You say nothing – and they marry.

Their first child is called Jezreel - which means “to be judged and scattered”

They have a second child which is called “Lo-Ruhamah” - which means “unlovable”.

These names are a treat aren’t they?

They have a third child called “Lo Ammi” – which means “not-mine” – leaves you guessing who was the father of that one.

This marriage is your worst night mare.

---

Off course this marriage can’t last - It’s over.

He doesn’t divorce her he just leaves her – the marriage is irreconcilable – he simply declares: “I am no longer her husband”.

Well people of Murray Bridge what do you say to your old friend Hosea?

- “I told you so” seems to be right up there.
- “Serve yourself right Hosea”
- “You made your bed now lie in it”.

Are any of you going to pity Hosea?

---

Gomer is off with another bloke – It seems he is a Pimp – and he “owns” Gomer. Even so says she still has affairs on the side.

This is not about the money with Gomer.

Now God says to Hosea go and buy Gomer back – it seems your woman is “owned” by another bloke – even though she’s technically still your wife – you have to pay the other bloke to get her back.

Now to be honest I’m not sure if Hosea really wants her back – but God says – “go and buy her back”.

Now good people of Murray Bridge – you have to say something this time – what are you going to say?

- “Don’t do it Hosea”
- “Don’t be stupid Hosea”
- Let’s be real, “Hosea if you buy her back you out of the will”.

What are you going to say?

Hosea doesn’t listen to you – he goes and buys back his unfaithful wife.

Maybe, the pimp was only too happy to get rid of her? Who knows?

Hosea buys her back – is he out of his mind?

---

In some strange way Hosea loves Gomer – maybe it’s just because God told him to find her and marry her – maybe it’s an obedience thing.

But whatever it is he defies you good people of Murray Bridge and buys her back – and yes she is even more unfaithful.

Is that grace – to get love you absolutely do not deserve – to love the unlovable?

---

Let me tell you of another dodgy bride.

This bride is just like Gomer - turn your back and she’s with another bloke.

She has beautiful Greek name “Ecclesia”.

In English “Ecclesia” means church.

This groom, Jesus, marries his bride Ecclesia, the church – you and me – male and female.

Jesus loves his church, his bride ‘Ecclesia’.

But she just can’t help herself – she’s a Gomer – unfaithful to the max – and yes “Ecclesia” is also not in it for the money.

Jesus wakes up in the morning and his bride is not there – she’s with someone else. She comes home – her hair is a mess – full of hay from the hay shed.

It says in Ephesians, her clothing is wrinkled, and stained, after her night out.

What does Jesus do?

I’m not sure if you are going to like this – I hope you do **because this is the mystery and hope and beauty of salvation.**

Jesus says to “Ecclesia” – “submit to me” – allow me to serve you!

Then, and only when, she submits to him he takes her gently by the hand and washes her – with words of forgiveness – then he puts her on a pedestal and present her to himself pure and radiant, and without blemish.

This goes on the whole married life between Jesus and Ecclesia - that’s you and me. A life of sinning, of submitting, of washing, of representing perfect and radiant – day after day.

Eventually Jesus buys his Ecclesia – she’s given herself to someone else – she belongs to someone else - it’s a costly price – he gives his life for hers.

He pays with his own blood.

Do you know where this is all going ?

Hosea buys back Gomer – go and live a life of thanks?

Jesus buys back the church – go and live a life of thanks?

“Go and live a life of thanks” - sounds like Go and serve Jesus living a life of thanks.

Almost sounds like a work we should do?

God’s word gives us another picture.

*What shall I render to the Lord for all his goodness to me?*

*I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.*

On the night when Jesus was betrayed he took bread...in the same way he took the cup.

It’s not the cup, it is “The” Cup with a capital T – it was the one of four cups on the Passover table – it was The cup of Salvation.

It was the cup that represented and reminded the people of all God’s saving acts when he rescued his people out of Egypt, out of slavery – the crossing the sea, drowning their enemies, providing manna and meat from heaven, bringing them to The Promised Land.

Receiving the cup of Salvation was acknowledging that God has saved and served you from the beginning of time.

Now Jesus makes that ancient cup alive for us today.

This is my blood of the new covenant.

Gomer, Ecclesia, you and me, to live a new life is to receive the cup of Jesus own blood his life for yours.

Gomer, Ecclesia, you and me, to live is to submit. It is too allow him to make you right.

He goes even further. Our fancy prayers – he makes them right.

Our offerings – big, little, willing, reluctant, he makes them acceptable to God.

When Jesus serves you it gives him joy.

He says, “I have come to serve and not be served and give my life for many”

You know Gomer was Israel – God’s plea was let me serve you!

Hosea’s mission was to love Gomer – his plea was for her to just stop what she’s doing long enough so that he could serve her.

Gomer please submit.

Jesus mission is to love Ecclesia – his plea is that we stop what we are doing long enough that he can serve us.

Ecclesia please submit.

I’m guessing you’re still wondering what do I have to do.

One thing “submit” - Take the cup of salvation.

Romans 10:17 – faith comes from receiving/hearing/submitting to the word of Jesus.

Take the cup – and faith grows – when faith grows opportunities for you to serve with Jesus – not for Jesus - open up all over the place.

What do I do – submit and take the cup, take stock of what was promised in that cup, and all these things will be added unto you.

I don’t think Gomer ever changed her ways – but this is how the book of Hosea ends up.

What do you think – a happy ending or a sad ending?

But now, this is what the Lord says –

he who created you, Jacob,

he who formed you, Israel:

‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

God’s love for Gomer is a promise;

Don’t think what I shall do in thanks - Receive this cup and all things, a million ideas, will be added unto you.

***Lord we thank you for sticking by us despite our sin. We ask for humble hearts to submit to your word – to receive forgiveness from Jesus less he died for nothing. Amen.***