

For Better or for Worse Lesson 12 3Q 2007

Hosea and Gomer: Forgiving the Unfaithful

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? How did the people commit adultery with God? By giving their hearts and minds to other gods, would this be true for our marriage relationships? In other words can adultery be committed with the heart and mind and not the body?

Read last paragraph – What do you think of this method of teaching? Is this how God used the entire nation of Israel – as an object lesson to teach the plan of salvation? Does it make a difference to understanding when we see it in this light? How so?

FRIDAY

Read second paragraph “Jesus is our...” Thoughts?

What does this paragraph mean?

Is Jesus in heaven pleading to the Father? Is Jesus in a dark smoke filled building? What does this mean?

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. John 16:12-15

Who is it that wants to tell the disciples something? Why doesn't He tell them? After Christ's resurrection where is

Christ? In heaven – does He still want to tell the disciples truth – enlighten their minds? But Christ is no longer on earth to talk with them so the Holy Spirit brings truth to God’s children on earth. But who is the Holy Spirit listening to? And who is He communicating to? And where is the HS getting His message? And what is it about? The truth about God! and what does the truth about God do? Remove lies which removes doubt and restores faith! Christ is in heaven and pleading to you and me via the HS i.e. He is working in the Most Holy Place of the Spirit Temple to remove the lies about God and restore trust and love which removes fear and selfishness a.k.a. sinfulness from our characters!

TUESDSAY

Read third paragraph – “The real issue...” and question immediately following - thoughts?

How do we practice spiritual adultery? Money? Power? What about false pictures of God? what about a political religion?

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Matt 7:21-23

What is the will of the Father? That we love one another! That we understand, appreciate and value God’s methods principles and character and willingly practice them in our lives.

MONDAY

Read second paragraph “The first son...” then Read Hosea 2:4,5 – thoughts? Do you think this is an accurate lesson for how God feels about us, or how God treats us? Do you think

this should be a proof text on how we should treat people in this condition? i.e. not love them?

Do you think the people of Hosea's time were learning much out of what Hosea was doing? What about the names of his children? Jezreel means God scatters, do you think it meant much to them at that time? Do you think they heard it like this when his mother called him, "God scatters come to dinner"?

Or do you think they heard "Jezreel come to dinner"?

Today, do you know someone named Bill – and when his mother calls him to you hear, "invoice come to dinner"?

Or someone named Pat do you hear "light tapping or light touch"?

I didn't live back then, but do you think people actually thought about the meaning of the names of people or just associated the name with the person?

Read third paragraph "It may seem..." Thoughts?

Do Christians do this today? Do we attribute our blessings to false gods?

Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God. {FLB 59.8}

When we worship a being who will torture His creatures in hell are we worshipping the true God? How about one who would execute His Son? Any other ideas which distort the truth about God?

TQ page 141 “There is a story about a husband who finds his wife’s suicide note that asks the question. Can you forgive me? The story unfolds to reveal that she had an affair with her brother-in-law and chose death rather than the humiliation and shame of having her husband find out about it. For her, seeking forgiveness was not an option.

“Many of us have skeletons in our closets, things we work very hard at keeping away from family, friends, and the church. But with ours, there is no hiding from God. However, this should bring us comfort, not fear. God’s intimate knowledge of everything we do should make it easier to approach His throne of grace.”

Thoughts?

Why do we try to hide our mistakes from family friends and church? Is it always our shame or even fear, or even our knowledge of how people will treat us?

If everyone would treat us like Jesus would we still be as afraid?

Do we sometimes try to hide our mistakes, not for fear of what will happen to us, but because we are concerned others aren’t mature enough to handle it? i.e. the knowledge may harm someone else?

Sin is insidious, when we find out about someone else’s sin, could we be tempted to be resentful, angry, bitter, jealous or condemning, critical, unloving? Could our heart actually be hardened by the knowledge of someone else’s sin? How do we prevent this? By loving forgiveness & longing for their healing.

What practices are those which we typically look down on others for? Drugs, alcohol and sex?

What are most offensive in God's eyes?

God does not regard all sins as of equal magnitude; there are degrees of guilt in His estimation, as well as in that of man; but however trifling this or that wrong act may seem in the eyes of men, no sin is small in the sight of God. Man's judgment is partial, imperfect, but God estimates all things as they really are. The drunkard is despised and is told that his sin will exclude him from heaven; while pride, selfishness, and covetousness too often go unrebuked. But these are sins that are especially offensive to God, for they are contrary to the benevolence of His character, to that unselfish love which is the very atmosphere of the unfallen universe. He who falls into some of the grosser sins may feel a sense of his shame and poverty and his need of the grace of Christ; but pride feels no need, and so it closes the heart against Christ and the infinite blessings He came to give.--SC 30

The hasty, reckless use of the faculty of speech lies at the foundation of nearly all the church troubles that exist. Evilspeaking should be dealt with as a misdemeanor that is subject to church trial and separation from church membership if persisted in; for the church cannot be set in order in any other way.--Ms 74, 1897. {VSS 31.2}

Thoughts? Would this include those who gossip about others in the church? Those who spread rumors?

Last paragraph and green section read both – thoughts?

How does sin blind?

First – what was the first sin? To believe what? Lies about God and what does that do? Blinds why?

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. 2 Thes 2:9-12

What does this text mean? Does God use His power to make people delusional? Then what is going on? If people reject the truth on any subject – what is the only thing left to believe? Lies – thus they become delusional.

When we speak of unbelief, we do not mean that a person believes nothing. The mind must rest upon something; and when it does not grasp truth, it lays hold of error. All men in one sense believe, and the effect produced upon the heart and character is according to the things believed. Eve believed the words of Satan, and the belief of that falsehood in regard to God's character, changed the condition and character of both herself and husband. They were changed from good and obedient children into transgressors, and it was only by repentance toward God and faith in the promised Messiah that they could hope ever to regain the lost image of God. Paul had faith before his conversion; but it was not a correct faith. His self-righteousness strengthened his faith that he was doing God's service in rejecting Christ, and he enjoyed a restful satisfaction. False faith as well as true faith will give peacefulness for a time. Paul verily thought that he was doing God service when he was persecuting the followers of Christ and putting them to death. He was sincere in his belief; but sincerity will not make error truth, nor truth error. "When the commandment came," says Paul, "sin revived, and I died." He then received the truth as it is in Jesus,

and experienced its transforming power upon his soul. The truth was so firmly planted in his heart that he could say, "Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." {RH, January 5, 1886 par. 8}

Thoughts about the EGW quote?

Secondly, when we sin we are convicted of guilt – we respond by either repentance and restoration which results in healing or by denial and blaming others – it wasn't me it was that woman you gave me – which works to blind the mind.

WEDNESDAY

Bearing fruit of unfaithfulness –

Why does God hate sin? What does sin do to the sinner? To others?

David and Bathsheba?

A person told me of her daughter being abused by the son-in-law and how she had all kinds of anger and resentment toward him. The sin of the man had planted a seed of anger and resentment in the mother-in-law's heart, that if she doesn't forgive him will grow into hatred and bitterness resulting in her becoming as hard hearted as the man who was abusing her daughter.

If someone has wronged us – why is it important we forgive? What if we don't?

THURSDAY

Read first two paragraphs – thoughts? How has God attempted to win us?

Why has God not used might and power to force everyone into line?

Why has God not threatened to take away His blessings?

Love cannot exist in an atmosphere without freedom – and what kind of a God would God be if He used these methods?

In TQ p 139 it states, “Hosea redeems Gomer for 15 pieces of silver, plus one and one-half homers of barely. It’s enough for Hosea to buy back her life. How does Jesus’ blood make our worth incalculable and buy us back from sin?” Thoughts?

What does it mean to “buy us back from sin?”