THE PAINFULLY EFFECTIVE LIFE OF HOSEA the PROPHET

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the Lord." (Hos 1:2)

HOSEA

His Suffering Colored His Message

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"Contend with your mother, contend, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband..." (Hos 2:2)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Heb 4:15)

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. (Matt 15:18)

The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. (Eccl 12:11)

For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. (1 Pet 2:19)

HOSEA

God Was Willing to Allow It

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The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Pet 3:9)

How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? (Ps 13:1) O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and You will not hear? Or cry to You violence and You will not save? (Hab 1:2)

Look among the nations, and see; wonder and **be astounded**. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. (Hab 1:5)

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Cor 4:17-18)

HOSEA

A Righteous Man's Pain Led to Love

Then the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes." (Hos 3:1)

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. (1 Jn 3:11)

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (1 Cor 13:7)

"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him." (Luke 17:3-5)

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"