God’s tender words

Questions:

1. Israel went after her lovers, what did God do about it (Hosea 2:6, 9, and 14-15)? How might God allure Israel in v14 (Jeremiah 2:2-3)?

2. Read Hosea 2:16-20. What are the differences between “husband” and “master”? Israel broke the covenant they made with God, what is the new covenant God made with her (Jeremiah 31:31-32 and 1 Corinthians 11:25)?

3. Read Hosea 2:21-23. What did God do in hopes that the Israelites will say “You are my God”? Read Song of Songs 8:4. Why would God insist on waiting for his people to love him with their own desire?

=== sermon notes ===

(slide 1) **I will woo you away from sin and shame**

“Hos 2:14 Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.15 There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.“

1. Israel went after her lovers
	1. 2:6 Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.
	2. 2:9 “Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready.
2. 2:14 Therefore! tenderly!
3. Wilderness- away from world’s temptation
4. Achor means "trouble," so the Valley of Achor is where Achan's sin was discovered and judged
	1. Joshua 7:26 Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.
5. Where we fall, God brings hope

(slide 2) **I remember when you were mine**

Jer 2:2 “This is what the Lord says: “‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the wilderness, through a land not sown. 3 Israel was holy to the Lord, the firstfruits of his harvest ”

1. Exodus time.
2. I remember the good time, do you?
3. Thou shall be holy as I am holy. Separate yourself for me.

(slide 3) **I will renew the vows you break**

“Hos 2:16 In that day,” declares the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’

19 I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.“

1. Instead of power and authority, God speaks love and intimacy
2. "Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.' And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.” Exodus 24:6-8
3. This is a new vow

(slide 4) **“This cup is the new covenant in my blood”**

Jer 31:31 “The days are coming, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them”

(slide 5) **I will love you first**

“Hos 2:23 I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

1. Song 8:4 Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you: Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.

Hosea 2:14 “Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.

15 There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

16 “In that day,” declares the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’

17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked.

18 In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.

19 I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.

20 I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord.

21 “In that day I will respond,” declares the Lord— “I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth;

22 and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel.

23 I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”