Hosea and Gomer

Verses: Hosea 1:1-3.

Questions:

1. How would you feel if your spouse betrayed you in spite of your selfless love? How would you feel if you were the unfaithful spouse but your spouse forgave you?

2. Why would God tell Hosea to marry a known unfaithful woman and raise family with her? Why were God’s people like an adulterous wife to God (Ezekiel 6:9)?

3. God wanted His people to feel his pain. Did He want to condemn them or to restore them? How do you know?

4. Do you relate to Hosea or Gomer more? How do you know and love God more after hearing this story?

=== sermon notes ===

Opening:

Action- when God opens the door

Motivation for the action- love of God

(slide 1) Hosea the prophet

Hosea 1:1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

*God speaks through his long time faithful servant prophet Hosea, and this time the assignment is quite different*

1. Hosea means Salvation
2. The split of the two kingdoms during son of Solomon
   1. The Southern Kingdom is Judah, capital Jerusalem
   2. The Northern Kingdom Israel, capital Samaria, located in Ephraim. First king is Jeroboam, grandson of King Solomon
   3. From a political and economic standpoint Jeroboam II was a successful and good king (2 Kings 14:23-29). Israel prospered politically and materially under his reign, but it was a time of significant spiritual and moral decay.
3. This means that Hosea was prophesying in the thirty years or so leading up to Assyria's destruction of 10 tribes Israel in 722 BC.
4. A prophet proclaims God’s word, mostly about moral, about Truth. A false prophet proclaims his own word.
   1. Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth.
5. Prophet Hosea has been proclaiming God’s word with his mouth, now he was about to proclaim God’s word with his bizarre action God commands of him.

(slide 2) God’s love story

Hosea 1:2 When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”

*God wants his love for us, and the pain that comes with it to be known*

1. The action was to marry a morally not so perfect woman.
   1. A woman of many men?
   2. A woman of a willing prostitute?
2. And have children.
   1. Treat her as a regular wife. Raise family with her
   2. To love her
3. And then experience the betrayal, disappointment, rejection, denial, sadness, anger- emotional
4. Just like God towards his people
   1. God’s covenant people were unfaithful to him
   2. Here a consistent picture used throughout the Old Testament. In this picture, the LORD is the husband of Israel, and their passionate, chronic attraction for idols was like the lust of an adulterer. His people were as unfaithful as a prostitute was.
   3. This is how God feel- similar to what we feel as we were made of his image
   4. My grandfather’s story
5. Later on, I am going to bring up what is right before you, to judge you, and then to forgive you, as I have loved you always through all these
   1. Hosea, can you do that?
   2. I want you to proclaim that to the world this is how I feel

(slide 3) We are Gomer

Hosea 1:3 So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

*We are chosen and loved, and we are like Gomer easily wander away from God*

1. Hosea obeyed- through out
2. Gomer seemed ok in the early going, then fall out
3. We easily wander and go astray
4. We have the tendency to get satisfied, get proud, and forget God
5. We are Gomer, we are unfaithful before, during, and after the covenant with the Lord
6. But God insisted to love us

(slide 4) Fall in love with God who loves us so much

*What Hosea was told to do to Gomer, was exactly what Jesus has done to us*

1. He chose to love us with nothing good from us
2. Even we betrayed him, he come to look for us
3. “If Hosea's story cannot be real (because 'God could not ask a man to marry an unfaithful woman'), then neither is the story of salvation real, because that is precisely what Christ has done for us."
4. John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.