

**TIPPING OUT ON GOD**  
**REVEREND CHRISTINE WILEY, PH.D**

Lesson: Hosea 5:15-6:1-6

Text: Hosea 6:3-4

3. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.  
4. What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you O Judah? Your love is like the dew that goes away early.

Have you ever cheated on anyone? Have you been dishonest and maybe tipped out on the one that you have made a commitment to, have and understanding with or are married to? Have you been dishonest, told lies, made up stories, hidden the truth, sneaked around, broken your vows, broken someone's heart. You knew that while you were doing it, it was wrong, but you did it anyway and you did not stop until you got caught or felt you were satisfied. It felt so good to pursue this "relationship" that you did not allow yourself to think about the implications. About how it might impact others you love. In the moment you felt all was right for you & you only paid attention to that.

Or maybe you were the one who has been cheated on. Just remembering it brings back the old familiar feelings. You may remember the break in your heart when you first found out. You may have wondered what you did wrong. Maybe you needed to be more attractive, Maybe you needed to go to the Gym, get your hair styled, or take care of your acne. For a brief period of time maybe you thought it was your fault until the brutal truth hit you that you had been lied to, deceived, a recipient of broken trust and a broken heart with tears and maybe even a hardened heart to prove it.

Hosea is a parallel story. It is the story of God telling the prophet Hosea to marry Gomer. A woman with a reputation. A woman who was so promiscuous that today we would say that she had a sexual addiction. Someone who keeps trying to fill the deep dark hole in her soul by sexual behavior. It doesn't fill the hole in her soul, it actually just makes her feel worse. She doesn't feel good about herself and thinks that the repetitious behavior of seeking something outside of herself other than the love given to her by her husband will eventually give her the something she seeks---not realizing that what she seeks is the deep loving commitment of a her husband. Maybe she had been the recipient of abuse or broken trust in the past & didn't realize that she responded by self destructive behavior. I don't know.

When I think about Hosea, I think about people who bring people into their lives and they just let them treat them any old way. They use them and abuse them, and cheat on them and lie on them. God did not make anyone to be a living doormat.

This story is a little different because the Story of Hosea the Prophets love and devotion for Gomer is parallel to the story of God's love for His people.

Hosea knew from the beginning who Gomer was. A promiscuous woman, possibly a prostitute. God told Hosea to marry her. She had children and it was clear that they were not Hosea's yet he cared for them as his own. He had to keep going out to look for her to bring her back. He even sent the children of her lust and sinful behavior out to her to tell her to come home to the family. This man at first listening sounds like a chump. But when we look closer we see Hosea the prophet of good experiencing in his private life, what is happening in the world with God and God's people.

Hosea was commanded by God to marry a woman who would be very unfaithful to him, and would cause him much pain, heartache & tears. Gomer lost interest in Hosea and went running after other lovers. Hosea should have gotten suspicious when he saw her in those fishnet stockings. The parallel was that Hosea's job as a prophet was to let Israel know that God was not pleased with them running after other gods and leaving their relationship with the God of Israel to languish. The people of God adapted to the pattern of the world around them and started praying to baal. Hosea's message was for them to repent and return to God.

Just like Gomer, when things were not working for her out in the street, she would come on back home until her feet got itchy again, and then she would be out there again. She got herself into such a mess in the street that she was actually tricking with a pimp & everything.

God's people do the same thing. God's people can tip out on God in a minute. We forget about the Lord and go out to run after dreams and goals that we never asked the Lord about. We start to compromise & bargain and find middle ground and concede and adjust the way we live. We start to live for ourselves and not for God and we call this being unfaithful.

While Gomer was tipping out on Hosea. Hosea's call on his life was not only to bring Gomer home and love her, but to preach to & teach the people of God, the Israelites, the northern kingdom that they needed to stop worshipping false gods & return to the true and living God and worship only God. The people wouldn't listen and continued in their self centered, ungodly behavior. You know, after you ignore God for a long period of time, after a while you don't even think about God. After a while you

are just plain ignorant of God. After a while you have no desire to please God at all. It got to the point that after a while, Israel did not understand God at all, just like Gomer did not understand Hosea.

In the personal story Gomer does come home. We pray that Hosea and Gomer were able to live happily ever after. We pray that Gomer finally gets it that Hosea's love actually is able to transform Gomer into loving and trusting and eventually healing those old broken wounds so that love and care would be mutual. We don't have the whole story, we don't hear any more after she returns home for the final time. But our hope is there that this is the case.

Let us look at the people of God, and whether or not they returned to the Lord. We can use ourselves as an example. Have you ever tipped out on God?

- Did you tip when that new person came into your life & now you don't have time for the Lord?
- Were you tipping when your job had new requirements & then you stopped coming to church?
- Are you tipping when you say the economy is bad and that is why you cannot tithe?
- Were you tipping when you missed one Sunday in church then 2, then 3 & so on
- Are you tipping out on God when God waits for you every with morning and you do not acknowledge the Lord with time, with gratitude, with prayer or even a thought.
- Are you tipping out when ignore the call on your life when you don't like what God has asked you to do?

God wants us to know and understand God and to turn to the true and living God every day of their lives.

Instead we come to church while we are also running the streets and prostituting ourselves by not giving ourselves totally. We are comfortable playing church & fooling ourselves into thinking that we are pleasing God. We fool ourselves into thinking that our emotions should guide us. If it doesn't feel good, don't do it. If it feels good do it! The problem with that is that it has nothing to do with God. Left to ourselves we will just be feel good people.

When Hosea began his ministry, Jereboam was the ruler. The land was prosperous. Everyone had a McMansion in the suburbs with a luxury car in the driveway. Folk went to worship—it was the politically correct thing to do, while they played the numbers, did not tithe, oppressed the poor and would not give of their time to help anybody.

Some of these folk sang in the choir and played the numbers. Some shouted in church and drank and did drugs the night before. Some held positions in the house of worship and gossiped and talked about the people of God & the leadership bad.

Some looked like they were doing well on the outside, but did not have a personal love relationship with the Lord.

They sang songs. (SING I Just Want To Know You)

How are you going to Know God if you never have any time for God? How are you going to know God if you complain about the testing of God. Hosea did not say, I'm not going after that woman. No telling what she's got, she might have some STD (sexually transmitted disease)! No Hosea, might not have understood it all, but he

used his gps, God's Powerful Spirit, and said Yes Lord, not my will but thine be done. If you can love her back Lord, so can I. So Hosea, because of his devotion and real relationship with God was able to say Yes Lord, Yes Lord, From the bottom of my heart to the depths of my soul, Yes, Lord. Completely yes, not half yes, some of the time yes. I love you Lord, I really do & my soul says yes.

But what about you? You see, the people that Hosea preached to were signifying and testifying. They knew they needed to return to God when things were a mess.

\*Read the Message Bible Scripture.

Don't fool yourself church. God doesn't need more religion. God wants you to be in relationship. The Lord lets us know that he doesn't want us popping in and popping out of our relationship. God says I want you to know me. I want you to love me. I want you to pay attention to me.

- Don't you know how much I love you?
- Don't you know that every time you tip out on me it nails another nail into the body of Jesus.
- You run around like prostitutes not fully committed, but I love you so much that I sent my son for you. My Son, who suffered, My Son, who was beaten and humiliated. My Son who suffered a treacherous torture & AGONY on a disgraceful cross.
- Romans 12:1-2 Message

I'm committed to you. Be fully committed to me. Return to me. Repent. Love Me. Seek me, trust me, Press on to know me. Seek ye the Lord and He will be found.

Don't give up. I promised you and I did it. Now you promise me and do it. I will never tip out on you. Don't tip out on me!