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**C0940 – October 21, 2009 – Hosea 5:1-7 – The Difficulties Of Deep Carnality**

Alright, in chapters 1-3 we have the theme that God establishes a historic parallel between His relationship with Israel and Hosea's relationship with his wife. Now the question is why does God use Hosea's marriage as an illustration of His relationship with Israel? Answer: because marriage is a contractual relationship. And when a man and a woman come into a marriage contract there are certain legal terms, certain obligations for the man and certain obligations for the woman. And therefore since God had entered into a contract with the nation Israel at Mt Sinai and there were certain legal terms, certain obligations God made to Israel and certain obligations Israel made to God then, therefore, the marriage contract of Hosea and Gomer provides a perfect parallel to God's relationship with Israel. And the point of historic parallel is to communicate in a very blunt way that the nation Israel was in violation of the contract with her right God just as Gomer was in violation of the contract with her right man. And so, in Hosea's writings you'll see one verse really strong on God's anger, so strong in fact that it appears He is going to completely cast Israel off forever, yet in the next verse we see the love of God just as strong. We see both sides of God's personality, and those two sides are coming out of His divine attributes of holiness and love. God's anger is a function of His holiness and God's love is a function of His love. Both are seen in these first three chapters. And so Hosea 1-3 present one of the most powerful portrayals of the personality of God. God is not like a statue in heaven, totally unconcerned about how His people are behaving. God personally responds to His people, often in great fury. God can get mad at you and God can get mad at me but God also pursues you with great passion. And therefore Hosea gives tremendous insight into the nature of God as a personal God who actively responds to His creatures. That's chapters 1-3.

Chapters 4-10, the section we're now studying, is the theme that God has a lawsuit against Israel and so this goes back into the marriage relationship of chapters 1-3 but the emphasis here is on the details of the violations. God brings the nation into a *rib* proceeding. *Rib* was the word for a lawsuit. And God is bringing a lawsuit against the nation Israel and His chief prosecuting attorney is the prophet Hosea. He brings the *rib* against Israel. And since it's a lawsuit there has to be some standard that has been violated. Otherwise you have no basis for arguing the case. And so the basis is the Mosaic Law Code of Deuteronomy. The prophet is calling the nation back to the Mosaic Law Code by citing infraction after infraction after infraction of that contract. And this is a lesson for us in that what we're learning is how the Holy Spirit convicts the nation of sin. And we're learning that conviction of sin is not based on some vague feeling of guilt. I feel bad today, maybe I did something wrong, that's subjective and the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin is not subjective. It's objective. And we know that because the Holy Spirit brought up infraction after infraction after infraction in this lawsuit, you violated this commandment, you violated that statute, and you violated that law. It's all very specific point by point violations. And by this we recognize that when the Holy Spirit wants to convict you of some sin He is very specific about what you've done. And through this we can learn how to distinguish guilt feelings from true sin. That's a very difficult distinction for many people to see. But what Hosea is indicating is that God's convictions of sin are not vague guilt feelings. If you're experiencing vague guilt feelings that's not the Holy Spirit, the vague guilt is coming from the world, the flesh or the devil, trying to distract you from spiritual growth. But if it is very pointed, and you've violated a known command then that's the Holy Spirit convicting you of sin so you'll confess and get restored to fellowship.

Now the nation at this point is facing deep, deep carnality. They don't just have one or two sins to confess, they have a whole laundry list of sins so long and so dirty that we've had to spend significant amount of time developing the principles of idolatry. We spent most of chapter 4 just developing those principles and the various stages as the nation decays into deep, deep carnality. There are six such stages. We tried to develop all of that in chapter 4 because chapter 4 is a summary of the rest of the lawsuit which is chapters 5-10. And since we said we'd see these stages over and over and over in Hosea's writings we just developed them all up front in chapter 4 and that

way when we see them we can just review what we've already learned. So the six stages briefly are number one, *negative volition to the knowledge of God*, not just negative volition to the word of God. Yes, that's included here with the nation Israel, but here the negative volition reaches further and includes the knowledge of God available to all men in all places. Things like Ps 19:1, "the heavens declare the glory of God," They rejected that and said the heavens are god and so that's the first step - negative volition to the knowledge of God. Step number two is the *darkening of the mind*: the reasoning processes are darkened so that reality is not correctly perceived. Step number three is the *demons infiltrate*; they begin to take over the function of God which is to desire your worship. Step number four is the outright *idolatry* when you worship some aspect of creation. But behind the aspect is a demon, always a demon behind the idol wanting your worship and so through history men have worshipped demons under some rubric whether it be hypnotism, evolutionism, mysticism, whatever your particular sin nature is particularly attracted to, that's where you worship and there are real live demons behind those. Step number five is the *social chaos* that breaks out. Now observe that everything up to step five you say doesn't hurt anyone and that's all fine. I see no problem with someone who wants to have their tarot card business, I see no problem with someone who believes in evolution, those aren't problems. The problems are the issues discussed on the 10 o'clock news. The problems are murder and pornography and theft and divorce and you'd be right to say those are problems. Obviously, but the Scriptures are saying that all those social evils are breaking out of theological evils, they are expressions of theological rebellion. And it's not until step five that the theological rebellion breaks out in social rebellion. So we have four steps of theological rebellion that precede, must precede, always precede in any society, the social rebellion that everybody looks at. This is why we are not into the "social gospel" where we just go around and put band-aids on society. You can put a whole box of band-aids on the social problems but until you get into the real issues, the underlying causes of the social problems and you get into the structure of who we are as made in God's image and the fact that man is fallen and a rebel against God's authority, until you get to that and you can focus a person on his sin nature problem and get him to see his solution, the gospel of Jesus Christ, then you can band-aid your life away but you're not solving problems. You may feed a few people a hot meal but all you did was extend their physical life in this world. You didn't work with them on the real issue of man's sin and God's solution, Jesus Christ. And so, the first

four evils here are all theological in nature and if you want to solve the fourth evil, the social chaos in society, then you're going to have to work back up here. We're not saying you can't give a person a hot meal, we're just saying that can't be primary. The true gospel has to be primary. And once you get that settled then the chaos in society; the laziness we see in the labor force, the dissolution of marriage contracts at the drop of a hat, the breakdown of the family, all that will gradually fall away, which is how you build a biblical culture. And obviously Israel did not and so they came to step number six. Step number six, we learned last week, is the shocking truth that if you go that far away from God in rebellion, God will just cut you off from His *protection*. There is a point at which God says, alright buddy, you want the demons, you want chaos, you want it all so much I'll just let you have it and I assign Satan to come in and destroy you. That's God's word to a believer in 1 Cor 5:5. And that's the point where if this is your fellow brother in Christ God says just leave them alone, don't bother praying for them, don't bother trying to pull them up because ultimately they're going to pull you down. You're not going to pull them up, you're not going to salvage their spirituality, and they're going to destroy yours. So just cut them off. God's going to take care of it. That's the ultimate discipline. They're not going to lose their salvation, it's just that they've so hardened in their position they'll never go positive to the word.

That's what we've seen so far and chapters 5-10 are going to continue with these six things and you'll see them over and over. We'll see certain arguments made in the court, the indictment and the proclamations of judgment. Tonight if we outline chapter 5, verses 1-7 are another indictment against the nation. Again, the Holy Spirit is trying to convict them of sin in a number of ways so they'll be convicted of their sin and confess. And that has parallels to us as NT believers since the Holy Spirit is the same yesterday, today and forever. We would expect Him to convict us of sin in the same ways. Then verses 8-14 are the pronouncement of judgment which details the Assyrian invasion that led to the fall of the northern kingdom in 721BC and that finds parallels to us as NT believers in the passages related to severe discipline such as when Paul says I turn so and so believer over to Satan for the mutilation of his flesh and other passages where the sin unto death is outlined. So Hosea is a very practical for the Christian life.

Hos 5:1 is the call to hear. Three groups are called to hear the indictment, the **priests** to the **people** to the **king**. So we have the whole national entity being condemned and therefore all need to hear. Now the priests are the religious leaders, they're the Bible teachers and they should have been going around teaching the word of God but they haven't been. Then it comes to the **house of Israel** and this is your average citizen, these are the families that make up Israel and they haven't been taught the word of God so they're ignorant. And finally it comes to the **house of the king** and this is the royal leadership, the political administration. It doesn't just refer to the king; it also refers to the king's house which is his administration. We have the whole national entity under condemnation and this is a lesson for us because we often think that it's just the political administration and if the administration would get corrected then everything would be alright. But the word of God never allows for a separation of the people from the administration. Always there are people who support the administration and therefore the administration reflects what the people want. We, the people, can never say that it's just the administration that's bad; the biblical position is that the people always get the administration they deserve. No one can say that the administration misled us; they do mislead, but only because the people themselves, secretly in their hearts, want to be misled; they desire the deception. And so, when a people desire deception God gives them leaders of deception.

God looks at the whole national entity in verse 1 and this is why he says in v 1, **For the judgment applies to you**, a collective singular, you, all of you, priest, people and political administration, **For you have been a snare at Mizpah And a net spread out on Tabor**. Now the picture here of a **snare** and a **net** are always pictures of loss of freedom. Both of these devices are used to trap. But someone has to set the trap and the point is that everyone in the nation has been involved in setting the trap. Now a trap must have some kind of bait, something to lure the prey into the trap. And they had nice juicy bait in their trap. What was the trap? The trap was the Baal cult. And the Baal cult was very attractive because it revolved around hedonism which basically says pleasure the body, if it feels good do it, and so this was a very attractive cult and so everyone that came near their Baal cultic centers was lured into the trap. And once you're in the trap then your freedom is lost because sin means loss of freedom, sin always enslaves. The picture of sin is always that you're ensnared by something. That's why it's so difficult to get

out of sin, you get trapped in it and this is the picture of loss of freedom because they've been trapped in sin.

What you will find in nations is that people lose freedom always for the same reason: always because they reject the word of God. The word of God is the basis of all freedom and every free society submitted to the word of God, every one! It's no accident that the Reformation countries in the north of Europe enjoyed tremendous freedom and the southern countries of Europe, who went through the humanist renaissance, could never reproduce the freedoms enjoyed by the Reformation north. And it simply came down to the fact that the south liked what they saw in the north but they didn't have the biblical base underneath it and so they tried to develop in a humanistic base and it didn't work. It fell to pieces and the French Revolution is testimony to that. The word of God has to be primary in a society if it's to enjoy maximum freedom. And therefore the fastest way to destroy freedom is to reject the word of God. We can only imagine the freedom the original Adam and Eve enjoyed before the Fall. Before the Fall they lived in perfect harmony with their Creator under His authority and enjoyed maximum freedom. And so when they bought into this idea that Satan projected, that to really get freedom you have to rebel against the word of God, they just brought in the greatest loss of freedom ever in the human race. From that point forward we are slaves of sin and the most we can hope for us to have strong Bible teaching penetrate our society.

Verse 2, **The revolvers have gone deep in depravity**, and this is a very difficult expression in the original text but what it seems to mean is that the **revolvers have gone deep, gone deep** is in the hiphil and the hiphil stem is causative, so it translates "The revolvers have caused to go deep in depravity." So what we have is one branch of people in the northern kingdom who are categorized as the revolvers. These are the one's who cause everyone else to go deep down in depravity. As is so often the case you'll have some group of corrupt people, usually a minority group very active politically speaking, and they appear to be larger than they really are and they start putting forth their propaganda. They're very loud people; you're always hearing their propaganda and so eventually people hear it over and over and over and so people start to listen and say, well, maybe this is the way most people think and everyone starts to gravitate to the propaganda of this small group. And gradually the small group becomes the big group and that's what

it's saying here, this little group of **revolvers** who have swerved around and twisted the word of God **have caused** everybody else to go **deep in depravity**. But God says, **I will chastise all of them**. See, it doesn't matter who initially revolted, the fact is the people have their own volition and they used it to follow the revolvers and therefore God says **I will chastise all of them**, which is an expression of intense discipline. The word **chastise** in the Hebrew is *muwcar* and this is the word for intense training or discipline. Training includes discipline and so what you want to picture here is military training, this is boot camp. Here you have the whole nation corrupted and God says I'm the commander of this nation and I call the shots and this is going to be the program.

So what we're dealing with here are truths of sanctification. Under the five general headings we have the Phases and there are three phases of sanctification. The first phase is positional sanctification and this is the Abrahamic Covenant; this is what God will do for the nation Israel. God chose the nation Israel and so they hold this position as a result of God's grace. They didn't do a thing to earn this position; therefore they can't do a thing to lose this position. Their position is due solely to God's grace and has nothing to do with their works. So first Israel holds a position by God's grace. Now the second phase is experiential sanctification and this is the Mosaic Covenant, this is what the nation should do for God, they should obey Him. Why should they obey? Because God has shown them grace. And therefore out of gratitude for His grace they should obey Him. And so this is the Mosaic Law and if they obeyed the Law they would be blessed, if they disobeyed the Law they would be disciplined. Now what He's saying here is you're out of it, you're way out of it and I'm going to discipline all of you. I don't care who you are in the nation, you're all going to get my discipline because I'm the commander and I call the shots and I've got a destiny for you. Your destiny is painted in the Abrahamic Covenant and yet to get you to the destiny, to get you in shape for that, I've got a severe training program to take you through.

Now the parallel in the NT is the individual believer, you and I. We have these same truths in parallel. First, we have as positional sanctification the fact that we have been chosen, Eph 1, we are justified legally before God, Rom 4, if you are a believer you are eternally secure, Rom 8, you hold this position and nothing can ever change that position because you didn't put yourself in that position. God did. It's of grace. And therefore God has marked

out for you an eternal destiny. But the second thing is this: we are now in phase two, experiential sanctification and this is the fact that God is going to get you in shape, you will get ready for that destiny, you will be conformed to the image of Christ, come hell or high water. God is going to stay on your behind like a drill sergeant to get you there. And if you revolt against His program He's going to discipline you and the discipline can become quite severe. This is the NT parallel to what's going on here with the *muwcar*. *Muwcar* is intense discipline to get you in shape for your destiny.

Now here's what's going on with the nation Israel. Watch how intensely God's discipline came upon the nation. In verse 2 God says "I will *muwcar* all of them," so don't blame the Assyrians when they come in and do as the Assyrians always do. When they invaded an area and they took prisoners they would stake them to the ground, spread eagle them and take their knives and peel their skin off while they were still alive. God's saying, when you see that, and when you see your neighbors screaming as their skin is ripped off, don't you blame the Assyrians. I, God says, am the *muwcar*, I'm the One that sent the Assyrians to do that, because I love you and I'm furious with the way you've responded to My love. This is the personal, the very intense personal response of God in Hosea to His chosen people. Because you're chosen that includes, notice, election includes discipline. Why? Because election means God has decided your eternal destiny and therefore to get to that eternal destiny involves certain pain if you rebel.

Now verses 3-4 form a contrast with the word **know**. Notice how verse 3 begins, **I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me**; and notice how verse 4 ends, **But they do not know the Lord**. The word is *yada* and *yada* again doesn't mean cognitive knowledge, it means intimate knowledge, knowledge of a personal nature. Its knowledge of personal involvement which is why this is the word always used when a husband had sexual intercourse with his wife. It's knowledge inside a covenant. God doesn't have this with any other nation, only Israel. So when he says **I know Ephraim** (which is a synonym for Israel,) God is saying I know you intimately, you're my wife and I know what's going on, your way **is not hidden from Me**.

Now this is analogous to our positional sanctification. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ you have your position in Christ and you are known by God. He knows you intimately and He knows exactly what you're up to. So turn to



Heb 4:12. This is the verse we recite every Sunday as we gather for corporate worship. We always quote it in preparation for hearing the word of God. It's to get our focus on the word of God. What is the nature of the word of God? If we know the nature of the word of God we can determine its function because nature determines function. We used to say in biology that the structure of the protein determines function. And so you have various proteins that have various structure determined by the orientation of the amino acids and how they chemically relate and that structure determines the function of that protein in your body. And so it is with the word of God. If this is just the word of man then it can only have certain function but if it's the word of God then it has a different function. So what is the nature of the word of God? Verse 12, "For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword," now that's the nature of the word of God. It's a sword that cuts deep. You say the word of God cuts, yes, it is an instrument of warfare. Warfare against what? Your flesh. And now the function, "and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Now look at that! It's a cutting instrument that gets down deep in the human conscience and judges the hidden things. The word of man can't do that. Only the word of God can do that. You can hide your thoughts from man but you can't hide your thoughts from God. That's what verse 13 is getting at, you can't hide from God, "there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." And this comes in a warning context. This is written to believers. Don't think you can hide from God. You can't hide from God. He has access directly into the dark crevices of your heart; He can see all your dirty laundry. So you might as well stop trying to hide and just come out in the open and confess.

Back in Hosea 5:3 to the nation, that's basically what He's talking about: **I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from Me.** That's Heb 4:12 type operation, I know your thoughts and I judge your thoughts. **For now,** middle of the verse 3, **O Ephraim, you have played the harlot, Israel has defiled itself.** Again, operating under the analogy of the second divine institution of marriage, the principle is just as you have a right man and a right woman, so also you have God and the nation Israel, and since the right woman is designed to respond only to her right man, only to that man inside the second divine institution, she is designed to be his helper. She is designed to respond to him, and when she's on negative volition she's turning

somewhere else. She's not satisfied with what her right man has provided, and so therefore the nation Israel is doing the same thing. The nation Israel was designed to respond to God but the nation Israel has gone on negative volition, rejected God and her mind was darkened and she turned somewhere else. She's got to attribute the agricultural and economic blessing to something so she turns to the wrong god; she turns to an emanation of her depraved heart, Baal. So the idea of harlotry simply is using the analogy of marriage for the Mosaic Covenant of Sinai and saying Israel is responding to the wrong God, Israel is responding to Baal and therefore Israel is a prostitute. **Israel has defiled itself.**

**Hosea 5:4, Their deeds will not allow them To return to their God. For a spirit of harlotry is within them, And they do not know the LORD.**

Now the phrase **Their deeds will not allow** is a description of the wall deep, deep carnality builds in the soul. The steps are they've gone on negative volition, negative volition, negative volition to the knowledge of God, over and over and over they've suppressed the truth they knew about God, and the more they suppressed the more their mind darkened and as the mind darkens a vacuum is created and they begin to suck in the HVP around them. This exchange always takes place. In this verse you'll see the world, the flesh and the devil. It's all there: the three basic elements of the world system. First the fleshly operation. Now once this fleshly exchange takes place then the demons begin to come in to reinforce negative volition and they begin to project out of these darkened minds idols, they begin to build hatred toward God, they begin to experience chaos in the heart and idolatries become rampant. So now we have the flesh and the flesh said negative volition, the world said do this instead and the devil is behind it all, the demons are the spirit of harlotries. Literally that's **a spirit of harlotries**, plural, that's the demonic influence that projects these idols. So you have demonic influence to a tremendous degree on a national level and they have by this time so entrenched themselves in idolatry that they have reinforced their sin patterns. They have trained their sin nature into habitual sin patterns and what this built up as they reinforced, reinforced, reinforced is a whole pile of **deeds that will not allow them to return to their God**. That's deep, deep carnality according to the three principles of the world, the flesh and the devil. And at this point there is no possible way this generation is going to confess their sin and return to God. They've reached the point of no return Hosea talked about last week. At this point there's nothing you can do, just

leave them alone because no matter what they're not going to genuinely confess their sin. They can't, their callous hearts won't allow it. And so now, on a national scale they are facing heavy, heavy demonic influence in the northern kingdom and, of course, most of the nation was unregenerate.

**Hos 5:5, Moreover, the pride of Israel testifies against him, And Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also has stumbled with them.** Now verse 5 comes after verses 3-4 emphasis on "I know" them, "I know" what they've done, "I know" their deeds and "I know" they do not know Me. And now He says "I know" their **pride** and it's a testimony against them. Now the principle is the principle of Prov 16, Pride goeth before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall and the verse describes both the pride and the fall. The fall is given in great detail in vv 8-13 where the nation comes under military defeat. So we come to **pride**. Pride is when your evaluation of self is better than it ought to be. It's an overly high estimate of yourself, the "I'm so great mentality and look at all that my hands have done." Now always locked in with pride is a very poor understanding of God's grace. Why is that? Because it's God's grace that provides. It was God's grace that had provided all the blessing in the northern kingdom. They didn't provide all that. God provided the fertility in their fields. God provided the economic prosperity. And they said we did it, we did it because we went down to the local Baal temple and we rubbed Baal's tummy, we did our sex acts and that stimulated Baal to give fertility to our crops. We manipulated the gods, we're so great. And God says you think you've done all this, you're arrogant fools, you've blown yourselves completely out of proportion all the way to thinking you are the ultimate cause of the effects in nature. And therefore you testify against yourself. I'm going to overturn all of it; it's a reversal of fortunes. So he says, **Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity**, literally, they will be "overthrown." And that's saying I'm going to reverse your fortunes. You've been enjoying prosperity, now I'm going to feed you to destruction.

And notice the end of verse 5, not everything in Hosea is directed at the northern kingdom. Here's a note to the southern kingdom. **Judah also has stumbled with them**, in other words they rejected the message of 4:15. They did go up to Gilgal, they did go march up to the northern kingdom, they went right up to Beth-aven, the house of wickedness. They rejected the word of God in 4:17 to just let the northern kingdom alone. Leave them alone God said, and they said, oh no, we've got to have our pilgrimages; we've got to go

up to maintain our tradition. And so they went up and they got close to these traps and they got lured right into the Baal cult and now it's started to happen, now they've been corrupted by the northern kingdom and now they're going to be overthrown. They get a delay down to 586BC because of Hezekiah's reforms but the seed of iniquity was already planted in **Judah** and eventually she went down to destruction, that's Babylon, 586.

Hosea 5:6, this is the northern kingdom. **"They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD, but they shall not find Him; he has withdrawn Himself from them."** In the Hebrew this is very powerful, it starts out with a big long sentence, **They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD**, long sentence, **but they shall not find Him**, shorter sentence, and then it concludes in the Hebrew with just two words, **He has withdrawn Himself from them**. It's all just two words, He's gone.

Now what is verse 6 talking about? Who wants to take a whole bunch of **flocks** some place **to seek the Lord**? Are they going out in the desert **to seek the Lord**? No, the thought behind verse 6 is precisely the same thought behind Hosea 4:19. They may use the Lord's name but they don't know the Lord. 5:4 already told us that they know His name and they fly that banner but they don't know Him. It's like a lot of professing Christians today, they fly the banner of Jesus, Jesus this, Jesus that, and they don't know Jesus. They're just saying a name. So they're taking their flocks and their hearts to go seek the Lord. The **flocks** are herds of sheep; what were the sheep used for? Sacrifice. Sacrifice for what? Sacrifice for the confession ceremony, sacrifice for the fact that they were to confess their sins. So what they are going to do when they see the armies of the Assyrians come in 721 BC? They're going to say "Hey guys, here comes Tiglath-Pileser III and I think it's time we confessed our sins." And so they're going to go out and have massive confession meetings all over the nation. Come confess your sins, bring your sheep, and your admission ticket. All these slaughterings are going to go on and on but something is going to happen. The Assyrian armies keep on marching, battles keep happening, the Hebrews keep losing; finally after three years Samaria falls. Now wait a minute here, we confessed our sin, what's the deal? It was all an outward show, there's no genuineness to the confession. If we bring the sacrifice, God will forgive our sin. But there's no genuine heart confession. It's all ritual. And you can go through all the ritual

you want but the Lord's not interested in your ritual. It doesn't matter if your heart's not right before Him. All their trying to do here is avoid a military disaster. They're not interested in getting back in fellowship with the Lord. What they're interested in is having the Assyrians go home. We've got an Assyrian problem on the northern front, we've got an Assyrian problem on the eastern front, we see the problem, and we don't want the problem so we better do something - let's try confession. This is why I've said, when you're in deep, deep carnality genuine confession of sin is very difficult to do. And the reason it's very difficult to do is because you don't have a clear conception of who God is. And God is the standard and if I don't have a clear conception of the standard I can't genuinely confess my sin, can I? And so the parallel for the NT Christian is when you've got a Christian who is waist deep in carnality and they see God's discipline coming in their life and then all of a sudden they are going to get it together, they're going to confess their sin. Why are they confessing their sin? Because they don't want the discipline, they don't want to suffer. That's the only reason in the world. They could care less about getting right with God; if God took the discipline away they'd go right back to their carnality the very next day. So when you're waist deep in carnality don't think you can just go into some kind of genuine confession at the last minute before God lowers the boom. It doesn't work that way. The way it works is the way it worked for the believer in 1 Cor 5:5, "give him to Satan for the destruction of the flesh that the spirit may be saved," God, when He gets us in a situation where we have reinforced habitual sin patterns, scar tissue all over our soul, when He sees that kind of thing, His love is so great for us that He looks at us and He hates to see how polluted we are and He's angry that we've so polluted ourselves and He says I've got a destiny for this person, he is going to be conformed to the image of Christ. And He loves us so much that He hates to see His vessels that polluted, and therefore because He loves us He is angry that we are in that condition. He's going to get us out of that condition. And here comes the discipline, despite last second attempts to confess.

You parents know what I'm talking about. You've had a situation where you've warned and warned and warned your kid that if they do that again they're going to get it and they say, I won't do it again mommy, I won't do it again and finally they do it again and so you get the rod and what do they start saying? "I'm sorry, I'm sorry." They're not sorry they did it. They're sorry their going to get a spanking. Well, it's too late at that point. Sorry

doesn't cut it. I said I was going to spank you and now I'm going to stand by my word as a parent and you're going to get it. Now that's love. Love says you're going to learn to respond to My authority, love says you're going to grow up into an adult, love says we're not going to tolerate any of this silly business around here, it's time to get in shape.

And that's the principle here. When they see the Assyrian rod of discipline invading they'll say, oh, let's go confess, but they won't find Him. They won't find Him means they won't find Him in the sense that He won't reverse the Assyrian invasion; nothing they can do will change it. God is gone, they pray, nothing happens, they sacrifice, nothing happens. It doesn't stop the discipline.

Hosea 5:7, **They have dealt treacherously against the LORD, For they have borne illegitimate children.** Now this takes up the same theme of Hosea 1-3, the theme of adultery. **Dealt treacherously** is a Hebrew word to violate a covenant. That is the key issue; a covenant has been violated, the marriage bed has been defiled. So this looks at the destruction of the second divine institution; marriage. Marriage is a covenant and the issue in marriage is the covenant. Once that covenant is made before God the terms of that covenant are established in God's sight. And it's the terms that He is interested in; are these two people loyal to the terms of the marriage contract. This is why we have got to get our Christian children off this Americanized "I love you" business. Love is not a basis for marriage. 99.9% of these kids don't know what love is. They know what lust is, they know what they feel like when they touch little Donna's hand because that gets the hormones flowing. But that's not love and that's no basis for a marriage. The basis for marriage is a contract and until a man has said in a marriage contract I'm going to do this for you then you can forget love, lust, whatever it is. Love, true love is a by-product of the marriage but it's not the basis of the marriage. And the problem in America is people have made lust, which they call love, the basis of the marriage and then when the lust is gone the basis is gone and the marriage is dissolved. It is the covenant that's the basis of marriage. Love may come and go, it doesn't make a bit of difference, the covenant is still there and the covenant is the basis of stability. So **they have dealt treacherously against the Lord**, they have violated the covenant, in this case it's not the marriage covenant, the imagery of the marriage covenant points back to the Mt Sinai covenant.

**They have dealt treacherously against the LORD, For they have borne illegitimate children.** In other words, they've gone to bed with somebody else and gotten pregnant, that's what its saying in case you couldn't read that from the translation. They went down to the local Baal cult and you can imagine with all the sex going on some of these women got pregnant and they have all these children running around who look like the mailman. They've violated the contract; they've gone into the wrong man, that's what its saying.

The last part of Hosea 5:7, **Now the new moon will devour them with their land.** Some wonder how a month can devour them, the word "month" is metonymy for festivals; in other words, they'll go for their festivals where they offer their sacrifices and it won't do any good; the Assyrians will come in anyway and we'll look at the invasion next week.

Let me just conclude by saying it's very difficult to get out of this deep, deep carnality. Probably most believers that sink this low don't come out of it and that's why it's so important to have family training. Family training in the home around the word of God. You have to lay down godly patterns in your children at a very early age because by the time they get to be five or six they've already laid down some pretty firm patterns and the older they get the more difficult it gets to change and I think if you reflect on your own life a lot of the struggles you have today stem back to a pattern you laid down in your soul when you were younger and you just never resolved it. You reinforced it for years and now it's still a struggle and that's why we want to develop from very early on godly patterns in home training.

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