

Unsatisfied

Hosea 7:1-10

Relentless (Book of Hosea)

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Introduction: Open your Bible to Hosea 7. I want to bring a teaching to you tonight entitled: "Unsatisfied." Tonight we are going to be thinking about how idols can never satisfy.

Hungry

God has given us many appetites. Do you ever get hungry? Do you ever get a craving for companionship? Do things ever make you mad? Sad? Bitter? All these things reveal what is in your heart. It's not always wrong to be angry or sad or desire companionship. Jesus had perfect appetites. Our appetites often center on "self." There is no person on planet earth who has sought "self" and ever been satisfied.

Think of Aaron Hernandez - an NFL football star with a 40 million dollar contract that committed murder. He had an appetite to be right, so much that he was willing to kill someone. And I can tell you that Hernandez's appetite has not been satisfied.

Hosea 7 is a beautiful calling of God to Israel to seek Him. If we seek God we will be satisfied! Look how God calls Israel, and how He calls us to be satisfied in Him!

I. God Sees Our Sin (vs. 1-4).

Hosea 7:1-4

“When I would heal Israel,
the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed,
and the evil deeds of Samaria;
for they deal falsely;
the thief breaks in,
and the bandits raid outside.

²But they do not consider
that I remember all their evil.

Now their deeds surround them;
they are before my face.
³By their evil they make the king glad [entertained],
and the princes by their treachery.

⁴They are all adulterers;
they are like a heated oven
whose baker ceases to stir the fire,
from the kneading of the dough
until it is leavened.”

Leaders Entertained by Wickedness

“They are all adulterers” (vs. 4) The Lord says the king and royal princes were *entertained* by the wickedness of the people. They did not direct the people in the ways of the Lord, their own morality was hot, like an oven, with lustful passions. The corruption of the land included fraud, robbery, lies, wicked deeds, adultery and drunkenness.

Look at our own country and state; do we not see the same attitude of some of our leaders? Some of them seem to be entertained by the sin of the population and these leaders make provision for them to continue in their wickedness through the laws they enact, giving no voice or regard to those who seek to uphold godly moral standards.

1. What was God willing to do for Israel? (v1)

Verse 1: I would heal Israel,
the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed,
and the evil deeds of Samaria;
for they deal falsely;
the thief breaks in,
and the bandits raid outside.”

God would heal Israel. It’s like an infected wound that is exposed to Him. He sees it. God sees our sin. God is ready to heal our sin.

2. What was it Israel forgot and did not consider? (v2b)

Verse 2, “that I remember all their evil.
Now their deeds surround them;
they are before my face.”

God knows when we sin. God is not far away when we sin. He is breathing down our neck like an affectionate parent. When we sin, it is right in front of God’s face.

3. Have you been living like God doesn’t see, hear or know?

a. Are we successful at hiding anything from God?
NO! Never!

b. Why or why not? If you can, provide scripture to support your reasoning.

Like Israel, we too can sometimes forget the Lord does what?

a. Hebrews 4:13 “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.”

b. Psa 33:13-15 “The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.
14 From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the

earth; 15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.”

c. Psa 94:11 “The LORD knows the thoughts of man, That they [are] futile.”

d. Psa 44:21 “God would surely have known it, for he knows the secrets of every heart.”

Turn Your Eyes on Jesus

If you are facing difficulty temptations, remind yourself that God is watching. Stand firm in your commitment to follow Him in all your ways, know full well He loves you and wants to help you through every difficulty you face. When you are tempted to turn from Him, recite a Bible verse, pray or do whatever it takes to continue walking in obedience and faithfulness.

II. God Reveals our Idolatry (vs. 5-7).

Hosea 7:5-7

“⁵ On the day of our king, the princes
became sick with the heat of wine;
he stretched out his hand with mockers.
⁶ For with hearts like an oven they approach their intrigue;
all night their anger smolders;
in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.
⁷ All of them are hot as an oven,
and they devour their rulers.
All their kings have fallen,
and none of them calls upon me.

Leaders Inflamed with Passion for Idols

The people of Israel, were so inflamed with desire and passion after idols, they were like an oven ready to bake bread. “None among them calls upon Me: They did in fact continue to sacrifice to the LORD” (Hosea 5:6) but it was all in hypocrisy and empty ceremony, they were not truly calling upon the LORD, they were just going through the motions of religious ceremony.

Application: Brothers and sisters what we give ourselves to in idolatry in small portions, those who observe us will give themselves to in spades. Have nothing to do with idols.

An idol is something you jealously protect – a replacement for a true Savior. It is something you get mad about if someone confronts you about it.

What might be some idols in your life?

Dead Kings

Verse 5-10 is talking about a 20 year period when four Israelite kings were assassinated (2 King 15). From Shallum to Pekah, they were all kings who burned with lust for the world and her pleasures and treasures.

1. The people's passion for disobedience was like what? (v4)

Adulterers – “they are like a heated oven
whose baker ceases to stir the fire,
from the kneading of the dough
until it is leavened.”

2. What was going on during the time of the judges? (Judges 11:8a, 17:6)

Everyone did that which was right in their own eyes. If it felt right they did it. So it was now in the time just before the captivity. They were led by their passions and emotions.

3. What wisdom did King Solomon give in Proverbs 29:2 regarding leadership?

It tells us about where we are now in our country and where we are headed...

Proverbs 29:2 “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice,
but when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

4. The princes and leaders of Israel became “sick” and drunk with “wine.” What does Proverbs 20:1 tell us about the person who is led astray by wine and strong drink?

Prov. 20:1, “Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler,
and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.”

III. Idols Never Satisfy (vs. 8-9).

⁸ Ephraim mixes himself with the peoples;

Ephraim is a cake not turned.

⁹ Strangers [the lost] devour his strength,
and he knows it not;
gray hairs are sprinkled upon him,
and he knows it not.

Idols Never Satisfy

Verse 8-9 is a reference to the intermarriage of the people of Israel to foreign people. Israel was influenced by **the evil practices of those cultures instead of Israel** influencing the foreigners. Even today, we can be so easily swayed if we are not strong and grounded in the Word of God. We begin picking up the attitudes of unbelievers and imitating their actions. When you work, live or play with unbelievers, beware of the influence they may have on you. Instead of drifting into bad habits, you need to be a

positive influence to them and point them toward God. The pull of the world can be powerful, but God is greater still. Don't let the world pull you down, pull someone up by sharing the love of Christ.

1. What effect did the strangers (foreigners) have on Ephraim because they mixed (bonded) themselves to the ungodly? (v9). Ephraim is like a cake not turned. Ephraim is "half-baked." Not fully there. Not as we might say "growing and changing." Not maturing. Not growing up.
2. Take time to examine your life, or just your day; what things might you be doing that are influenced by unbelievers and not the Lord? What are ways that the philosophies of the world can hinder our growth or even cause some to apostatize?
3. Read John 17:13-19, [esp. 15] What did Jesus pray for? "But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁵ **I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.**¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."

- What does it mean to "be in the world but not of the world"? It means not to be controlled by the world's thinking though you live among hellish philosophies.

4. Explain what Paul means in 2 Cor 6:14 in relation to our personal walk and reaching the lost. "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?"

IV. God's Mirror (vs. 10).

God Testifies to Israel and to Us

What is God doing as an act of mercy to Israel?

Verse 10, "The pride [glory] of Israel testifies to his face;
yet they do not return to the Lord their God,
nor seek him, for all this."

They need to "return to the Lord... [and] seek Him."

1. What are some ways God testifies to your sin and my sin?

- (1) Titus 2 mentoring relationships (mature men with younger men, mature women with younger women.)
- (2) Other believers
- (3) Your spouse if you are married (and listening) 1 Peter 3:7
- (4) The Word
- (5) Sermons
- (6) What else?

2. What happens if we do not respond to God's "mirror"?

What happens if we ignore our Glorious God when we do not seek him or turn to Him?

James 1:22-25, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."