

# Lessons Learned in the School of Life

(Hos. 3: 1)

READ: Hosea 1:1-11; 3:1-5

## Introduction.

Several men discussed where they attended college. One conspicuously avoided telling where he attended, so another man in the crowd asked him, "Jim, where did you get your education." Jim timidly replied, "I got my education in the school of life, and I majored in hard knocks."

In the Old Testament there is the story of a prophet who got his education in the school of life. He, too, majored in hard knocks. His name was Hosea. The prophet's marriage marked the beginning of his education. He married a prostitute named Gomer. "The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD" (Hos.1:2-3). The inevitable result was domestic tragedy. Three children were born in Hosea's home, but he had a suspicion that the last child did not belong to him. Amid the domestic tragedy, Hosea applied his situation to the Lord's work with Israel. God had married Israel and Israel was unfaithful to the Lord.

## I. Hosea learned about the nature of sin.

A. *Sin is a selfish rebellion against God.*

1. Gomer rebelled and went after her other lovers. Her action was deliberate. It was *her* action.
2. Sin is a self-centered action on the part of a person. It is a deliberate attempt to be the master of your life.

B. *Sin is a grief-bringing action.*

1. Gomer's action wounded her family. Hosea was hurt. Three children were hurt.
2. Sin is a wounding matter. It brings deep hurt. It hurts God. It hurts yourself, and it hurts others around you, when you rebel against the Lord.

C. *Sin is a separation situation.*

1. Gomer left Hosea. He was left alone with the three children. Hosea learned about the tragic alienation which sin brings.
2. Sin separates people from God. This is called alienation.

## II. Hosea learned about the nature of religion.

A. *Religion is not just an external matter.*

1. Gomer fulfilled the external obligations of a wife. Hosea wanted a loving mother

- to his children and a devoted keeper of the house.
2. Real religion consists of more than external observances. Listen to Micah.

"Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:6-8).

- B. Religion is a relationship with God.
  1. Gomer did not have a relationship with Hosea. She had his children, cooked his meals, and cleaned his house, but her love was for others.
  2. Real religion is a personal relationship with God.
- C. *Real religion results in a companionship.*
  1. Gomer was never an authentic companion of Hosea. She lived with him, but she did not relate to him.
  2. Real religion is a harmonious relationship with God. It means to walk and to talk each day with the Lord.

### **III. Hosea learned about the nature of God.**

- A. God does not give up on human beings.
  1. Gomer left Hosea for other lovers. She went the ways of the world, but Hosea did not give up on getting her back. He persisted until he found and reclaimed Gomer again.
  2. God searches relentlessly for erring human beings. He seeks continuously to bring rebellious people back to Himself.
- B. God has a loving attitude toward sinners.
  1. Gomer's rebellion gave Hosea an insight into how God felt toward Israel. He did not want to destroy the people. He still loved them.
  2. God is not angry at the world. He is in love with the world. He wants a relationship.
- C. God restores erring human beings.
  1. Hosea learned about God's redemptive nature. After Hosea found Gomer, he bought her and took her home again.
  2. God restores wandering human beings back into fellowship.

**Conclusion.** Hosea had a real problem. It was one of an

unfaithful wife. A dadaistic tragedly occurred in his life. Yet he learned some valuable lessons. Have you learned these lessons? God wants to relate to you. God wants you to walk with Him. Why don't you let Him into your life?