**The Consequences of Disobedience!**

**HOSEA 5:1-6:3**

Jesus says “Those who love me, obey me!”

* **The measure of our obedience reflects the measure of our love for the Lord.**

In the time of Hosea, Israel had lost its first love of God. This was evidenced in their total rejection of God and in their disobedience to His commands and decrees.

In **Revelation 2:4-5**, Jesus said to the church in Ephesus, “I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first love**. Remember the height from which you have fallen! **Repent** and to the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”

* Ongoing disobedience in the life of any Christian, without true repentance, always brings the punishment, the chastisement of God.

Hebrews 12:4-11.

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s **discipline**,

and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6 because the Lord **disciplines** the one he loves,

and he **chastens** everyone he accepts as his son.”

7 Endure hardship as **discipline**; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not **disciplined** by their father? 8 If you are not **disciplined**—and everyone undergoes **discipline**—then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who **disciplined** us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! 10 Our fathers **disciplined** us for a little while as they thought best; but God **disciplines** us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

* Holiness is where you discover joy, peace and contentment!

**THREE TRUTHS** concerning God’s judgment and His way to forgiveness:

1. When religious leaders, and the people who follow them, reject God and His Word, **judgment is coming**! Verses 1-7:
2. **Great judgment and condemnation await religious leaders.**

* In verse 1, Hosea calls attention to the priests, the kings, and the people. He says, “Pay attention to what I’m about to say!” The judgment of God is coming against you.

Verse 2: The rebels are deep in slaughter (NASB ‘Depravity!’). I will discipline all of them.

* God is preparing to punish or chastise these rebellious leaders who have descended into great moral depravity and are spiritually slaughtering the people.
* When religious leaders turn away from God’s word, in reality, they are rejecting God. Moreover, they are leading vast numbers of people into spiritual darkness.

**Dr. David Jeremiah** once said, “The vast majority of churches in America are leading the masses down the wide road!”

In **Matthew 7:13-14**, Jesus says, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to live, and only a few find it.”

**Paul Washer** says, “On the day of judgment, do not fear for the atheist so much, the thief, or the murderer, if you want to be afraid for someone on the day of judgment, be afraid for those who carry the title pastor.”

**Jude 12-13:** “These men are…shepherds who feed themselves. They are clouds without rain; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.”

* The prophets, priests and even the kings, of Hosea’s day were snares and nets who drug the people of Israel away from God into the worship of false idols and lascivious, explicitly sexual, forms of worship.

Verse 3: I know all about Ephraim; Israel is not hidden from me.

**Proverbs 15:3** “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.”

**Jeremiah 16:17** “My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.”

* Just as none of the sin of the Israelites was hidden from God, none of our sin is hidden from God.
* The royal and religious leaders of Hosea’s day were corrupt. And because their hearts had become hardened by the depravity of their sin, they could not return to God.

**Verse 4:** “Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; **they do not acknowledge the LORD**.”

**Matthew 13:13-15:** “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.”

**Verse 5:** “Israel’s arrogance testifies against them…”

* Pride is the chief sin of the human heart. In our pride, we, in essence, say to God, “I’ll get to heaven my own way!”
* The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart!

Pride was the sin of the Israelites.! Their arrogance testified against them.

1. What was the consequence? **God withdrew from them!**

**Verse 6:** “When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the LORD, they will not find him; **he has withdrawn himself from them.**

**Revelation 3:14-20:**

**14** “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. **15** I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. **18** I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

In **Matthew 13:44**, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

* When a man hears the gospel and believes it, he becomes rich in Christ! In that moment the Lord gives him white clothes to wear which are symbolic of His righteousness.

**Isaiah 61:10** “I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.”

Jesus wants to cover our shameful nakedness, and this is what He does the moment we place our trust in Him and in His word, the Bible. IN that moment of true faith, “salve [is] put on our eyes, so we can see” with the eyes of our hearts.

**Verses 19-20:**

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

1. When a nation or an individual refuse to repent, **God’s judgment will be certain and imminent!** **Verses 8, 9,10, and 14:**

God already had in mind the tool of His punishment of Israel: the Assyrian army.

* In 722 B.C., the capital city, Samaria, was overtaken by the Assyrians. Following a three year siege, in the 9th year of king Hoshea, the last king of Israel, Samaria was captured and the Israelites where taken away to Assyrian, where they disappeared from history.

**Hebrews 10:31** “It is a dreadful (fearful) thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

* Pastors should give warnings to those who come to church.
* If you don’t know Jesus, then one day, you will discover that it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God who will be your judge at the Great White Throne Judgment. You will stand before him wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

**Revelation 20:15** “If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

1. When a nation, or a man, seeks God with a repentant heart, **God will forgive and bring healing. Hosea 5:15; 6:1-3**

What should you do right now if you aren’t sure if you really know the Lord?

In **Acts 3:19-20**, Peter is preaching to a crowd of people. What he tells them to do is what he would tell you to do tonight:

**“Repent**, then, and **turn to God**, so that **your sins may be wiped out**, that **times of refreshing may come from the Lord**, and that **He may send the Christ**, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.”

**THE PRAYER**

“Lord Jesus, I have sinned against you many times. Please forgive. With your help I’m ready to turn away from my sins and follow you for the rest of my life. Please forgive me and send your Spirit to live within my heart that I might truly know you and have assurance that I am saved and prepared to die and live with you forever! In your name I pray! Amen!”

**John 7:37-39**: On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a LOUD VOICE, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, **streams of living water will flow from within him**.” **By this He meant the Spirit**, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.