

Women in the Word **Hosea 2:14-3:5**

Review:

- Hosea & Gomer represent Israel and the Lord.
- God's announced judgment for Israel spiritual adultery (2:6; 2:9)

2:14-15 Wait! What?

This is completely surprising

- You expect a 3rd judgment and instead get love.
- This is romantic language. God will literally "speak to her heart."
- Valley of Achor (trouble) was a place of God's judgment (Joshua 7:1, 15, 18, 21, 24-26).

How does a place of judgment become a place of joy?

- Option #1 – God is unpredictable. Sometimes He punishes and sometimes he doesn't.
- Option #2 – God always punishes sin. (John 12:27, 10:9; 2 Cor 5:21)

The result of God's love?

- Wilderness to Vineyards. Covenant at Sinai (days of youth).
- A 2nd Honeymoon, Exodus language.

2:16-23 Cosmic Renewal

- We know from Romans 9:25-26 & 1 Peter 2:10 that the "day" of verses 16 & 21 began with Jesus.

Five aspects of the cosmic renewal promised here:

- A relationship with God characterized by love like that found between a bride and groom (v. 16)
- We will be no longer able to sin (v.17)
- The effects of the Genesis curse will be reversed (v.18, 21,22)
- We will stand before God in righteousness, justice, faithfulness as a result of God's love and mercy (vv. 19-20)
- We will call out to God and say "You are my God" and He won't say "Who are you?" Instead He will say "You are my people." (v.25)

3:1-5 A Living Sermon Illustration

- Israel's love for God was marked by unfaithfulness. (raisin cakes were used in pagan worship and thought to be an aphrodisiac with powers of fertility).
- Hosea's love for Gomer was: intentional, unstoppable and un-breaking,
- Hosea's love of Gomer was costly.
- Hosea's love for Gomer was chastening to bring about faithfulness. (forced chastity)
- Hosea's love for Gomer was a picture of the coming Assyrian destruction of Israel.
- Hosea's love for Gomer was a picture of God's love for you in Jesus. (cf. 1:11; 2:7)

Questions for reflection & application:

- What do you love, who do you serve, who or what motivates you other than the Lord?
- What are your sacred raisin cakes? What techniques, things do you think will help you receive love, affection, security, recognition, etc?
- How do chapters 1-3 of Hosea change the way you see/understand God's love?
- How do you respond emotionally when you know that you have sinned against God? Do you beat yourself up? Do you carry the guilt around as penitence? Do you feel that you've lost out on God's plan A for your life and now you're doomed to plan B? How do these chapters change your perspective?