

Discussion Questions: Hosea 2.14-23

1. Hosea harks back to Israel's time in the wilderness following its liberation from Egypt. Do you think that the people following Moses found the wilderness to be one big date with God? Had you ever thought of the wilderness wanderings as a rich time of intimacy with God?
2. One profound way to understand the Old Testament prophets is to see them as deeply aware of the tradition of Moses. No prophet is more deeply of the Exodus under Moses than Hosea. The memory of the Exodus, the sojourn in the wilderness, the covenant at Horeb and the conquest of Canaan are always in Hosea's mind as he interprets the conditions of his own time. How was Hosea's consciousness of the Mosaic heritage the grounds for his disappointment with Israel's life under the rule of the monarchy? Describe ways that Israel had wandered from the spirit of the Exodus.
3. We see in this passage a whole new tone from Hosea. This tone is wonderfully encouraging, which is in sharp contrast with the message of the verses that come immediately before this passage. Could Israel get to this new place and condition of renewing marital vows with God if it did not go through being conquered and exiled?
4. Hosea was the first Israelite prophet to interpret the Israel's relationship with God as a kind of marriage. What can we take from this that helps us better understand our own relationship with God? How should our Christian walk be more like a marriage?
5. How does God speak tenderly to us in order to woo us back to himself that our own persistent spiritual infidelity may be conquered by a love stronger and deeper than ours?
6. We see prophetic criticizing in all of the contemporary prophets studied in our homework readings or viewings. Where do we see a strong positive vision for new hope in their work? (Bonhoeffer, John A. Mackay, Romero, Paul Farmer, Dave Ramsey, Martin Luther King etc)

Hosea 2.14-23

¹⁴Therefore, I will now persuade her,
and bring her into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵From there I will give her her vineyards,
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

¹⁶On that day, says the LORD, you will call me, 'My husband',
and no longer will you call me, 'My Baal'. ¹⁷For I will
remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they
shall be mentioned by name no more. ¹⁸I will make for you a
covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of
the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will
abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I
will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹And I will take you for
my wife for ever; I will take you for my wife in
righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in
mercy. ²⁰I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and
you shall know the LORD.

²¹On that day I will answer, says the LORD,
I will answer the heavens
and they shall answer the earth;

²²and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the
oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel;*

²³ and I will sow him* for myself in the land.

And I will have pity on Lo-ruhamah,*
and I will say to Lo-ammi,* 'You are my people';
and he shall say, 'You are my God.'