

Hosea: Focus

- **Gomer had a good life**
 - I have brought them into a land flowing with milk and honey.—Deuteronomy 31:20
 - Gomer rejected the marriage bond by her actions.—Hosea 2:2
 - She forgot her first love. (Revelation 2:4)
- **We begin well, but lose focus**
 - And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.— Mark 4:18-19
 - The people multiplied altars for sinning—Hosea 8:11
- **Belief that lovers provide**

For their mother has played the whore;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, 'I will go after my lovers,
who give me my bread and my water,
my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.—Hosea 2:5

 - The Golden calf—Exodus 32
- **Hosea protects from herself**
 - Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build up a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths.—Hosea 2:6
 - The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life—Psalm 121:7
- **She returns in self-centeredness**
 - Then she shall say, "I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now." And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.—Hosea 2:7b-8

- **God removes blessings**

- Hosea 2:9-13
- Come, let us return to the Lord

For he has torn us that he may heal us

He has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

-Hosea 6:1

- **Hosea draws her back**

Therefore, I will allure her,
and bring her back into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.

-Hosea 2:14

- **Restoration of relationship**

- And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.—Hosea 2:19-20
- New Heavens/New Earth--Revelation 21-22

- **Summary of Hosea 2**

- Israel had it good.
- Israel rejected God.
- She believed her lovers provided for her needs.
- God protected her.
- Israel returned in self-centeredness, not love.
- God removed His blessings.
- God draws Israel back with tenderness.
- Points to a restored relationship.

- **How do we focus?**

- Prayer

- Ask God to reveal your distractions
- Rhythm of prayer

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.—Psalm 119:35-37

- Get extreme when necessary.