20210620 Hosea 1:1-9

Without Love, No Anger

Hosea[ESV] 11:8

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?

This verse summarizes the book of Hosea. God is crying out with a heart of sorrow to Israel, who has fallen into filthy and lewd idolatry. Judah and Israel were established by God, and they were community of faith. In other words, it was like a church. However, especially in the church of Israel, they had a golden calf stood on the altar to the Lord, and Baal and Asherah were standing next to them. An obscene collective sexual sacrifice was offered for the idols, and it was always organized by the priest. They said they were doing it for the glory of the Lord. What judgment has been made on this filthy spiritual and moral depravity? History of Sodom and Gomorrah proves it. The judgment was given to them with burning fire and brimstone. And yet God has compassion for Israel.

I thought of a man crying and sheds tears. He is truly the perfect man. A husband who is holy, faithful, and loves only the wife. However, his wife had been living a promiscuous life before marrying the marriage, and she could not abandon that life even after marriage. Yet this perfect husband never even imagined the word ‘divorce’. He only with a face with tears, anger and screamed “come back”.

This husband represents the God and wife represents Israel. Especially kings, priests, prophets, and leaders of Israel. Who are those children? They are the people who are suffering from sin since the birth until death and groan under sin until they die under teaching of leaders. God still has a passionate compassion and love for them. God’s wrath is because he loves them. It is illustrated by the command to Hosea.

Hosea[ESV] 1:2

When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD. “

The word ‘first’ is actually better translated ‘finally’. As Hosea watched the whole process of Israel forsaking God, he had a heart of sorrow. However, the voice of God, ‘finally’, was not a message to the people. It was a command to himself. “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom.” It was difficult for Hosea who has decided to lie as a prophet of holy God. Hosea obeys the word and pays a lot of money to take Gomel, an obscene woman, as his wife. It was not an unconditional obedience, but Hosea understood the heart of God. He decided to become that man because he knew how much God loved Israel, how heartbroken he was. Hosea loved Gomer and did his best to embrace her. Hosea decides to tell them that God is waiting for them with torn hearts through his marriage and family, and that torn heart is causing great anger. that is illustrated by the names of Hosea’s three children through Gomer.

Hosea[NIV] 1:9

Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

Hosea did his best to Gomer, but she did not change. Such a wife gave birth to a third child, but he was not sure if it was his child. Then he heard God’s voice “Name the child Lo-Ammi.” Israel said they were God’s people, but they bowed down to the golden calf, Baal, and Asherah. God did not see them as children of God.

You can say you are “child of God”, but you cannot be one just by saying it. What you worship and love proves where you belong. If you love money, you are its children. When you love honor, power, and pleasure, you are children of it. God pours out his anger toward “self-proclaimed” Christians just as he did before with Israel. But God does not give up on us and wants us to return to him.