

HEARING WITH FAITH

jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

May 12, 2019

Hosea 11:1-7

1. The prophet Hosea was one of God's prophets to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and his ministry took place between 755 and 714 BC.
2. The people of Israel did not know it, but their existence as a nation was on the line.
3. Hosea represented their last chance to repent and get right with God.
4. In spite of Hosea's God-anointed ministry and message the people continued to live outside of the will, plan and purpose of God.
5. So, in 722 BC, the Assyrians, God's instrument of judgment, conquered and subjugated Israel through death and destruction.
6. The reason this happened is clearly stated in the passage I just read.
7. The key to understanding this passage is found in the first part of verse 2 and in verse 7.
 - a. "The more they (the prophets) called them (the people), the more they (the people) went from them (the prophets)."
 - b. "So my people are bent on turning from Me. Though they (the prophets) call them (the people) to the One on high, none at all exalts Him."

NOTE: The attitudes and actions of the people were a repudiation of God's love, God's care, and God's prophets.
8. One of the ways God's love for His people is manifested is through the human instruments God calls and sends to bless, instruct, and care for His people.
9. The destruction of the nation of Israel, and the later destruction of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, happened because the word of God, delivered by God's prophets, did not profit them because they did not believe it and live accordingly.
 - a. Note the word of God in Hebrews 4:1-2
Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. 2 **For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.**
 - b. If the word of God is going to accomplish its work in our lives it must be heard with faith.
Galatians 3:1-5
You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith**? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain — if indeed it was in vain? 5 So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith**?
10. Many people will hear the word of God today, but it will not profit them because faith is not part of the equation.
11. They are not actively believing, and subsequently benefitting from, the word of God.
12. I want to illustrate this truth by looking at a well-known passage of Scripture. Rom 8:28-30

I. "And we know (believe) that God causes all things to work together for good..."

A. "...to those who love God,"

1. This promise is made to those who actually love God.
2. Those who actually love God are those who obey God. John 14:21-24

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. 24 "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me."

B. "...to those who are called according to (in keeping with) His purpose."

QUESTION: What is God's purpose?

II. "For those He foreknew (would be saved), He also predestined (predetermined them) to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren (who would be like Him);"

A. God's plans for you and me have not changed since the beginning of the human race.

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

B. Because of sin the image of God was marred in mankind, and in Christ that image is restored through the process of sanctification. Col 3:9-11

Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the **old self** with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the **new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him** — 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

NOTE: If there is no renewal taking place we have a problem.

C. If this renewal process is taking place what was true about Jesus, related to His earthly walk, will be true about us.

1. Jesus loved the Father, and demonstrated that love by His obedience. John 8:28-30

So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

2. Jesus found joy and fulfillment in doing the Father's will.

a. This truth is stated in a messianic passage found in Ps 40:6-8.

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 **I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."**

b. This truth is demonstrated in John 4:31-34.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples were

saying to one another, "No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."

NOTE: When the disciples went into the village of Sychar to buy food they left Jesus at Jacob's well wearied and hungry, but when they returned they found Him energized and not thinking about food.

3. Jesus emptied Himself and became a servant. Phil 2:1-8

Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 **Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus**, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

NOTE: Do your motivations, attitudes and actions reflect those of the Lord Jesus Christ?

III. "...and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

A. If you have been called you have been justified, if you have been justified you are being sanctified, and if you are being sanctified you will be glorified.

B. Those who are not being sanctified, are not being conformed to the image of Christ, have not been called or justified, and they will not be glorified. Hebrews 12:14

"Pursue...sanctification without which no one will see the Lord."

APPLICATION

1. In 1 John 3:1-3 we read the following.

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 **And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

2. If you and I are truly children of God these verses are true and will be true of us.

a. Because of God's love we are God's children.

b. Because we are God's children those who are of the world will not understand us.

c. Because we are God's children we will share Christ's likeness in eternity.

d. Because we are God's children and have this hope fixed on Him we will purify ourselves just as He is pure. We will want what God wants to be advanced in our lives.

3. Many focus on the inevitability of sin rather than focusing on the inevitability of spiritual progress and victory over sin.

4. Those who are in Christ will be conformed to Christ.

5. No conformity means no call, no justification, and no glorification.

6. Like Israel of old, many are not benefitting from the preaching and teaching of God's Word, because it is not united by faith in those who are only hearing, but not believing.