

Real Characters in the Making Series

**THE UNFAILING LOVE OF HOSEA**

Hosea 1:1—2:1

# The Unfailing Love of Hosea

- When was the last time someone you cared for a lot, hurt you deeply?
  - How did you respond?
  - Did you stay? Or did you cut and run?
- *“Would you wait around to find out if it's just a necklace, or if it's sex and a necklace, or if worst of all it's a necklace and love? Would you stay, knowing life would always be a little bit worse? Or would you cut and run?” – Love Actually*

# The Unfailing Love of Hosea

- How did Hosea respond?
  - How does God respond?
  - Book of Hosea is a window into God's unfailing love for His people.
- Look at three lessons from Hosea's Life about love:
  - The REALITY of Unfailing Love
  - The COST of Unfailing Love
  - The PROMISE of Unfailing Love

# The REALITY of Unfailing Love

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beerli, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

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.” 3 So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

# The REALITY of Unfailing Love

- Hosea's Calling to Marry Unfaithful Gomer
- The Reality of Spiritual Adultery
  - “Playing the whore” (3:3)
  - “Spirit of whoredom” (4:12)
  - “Give themselves to whoring” (4:18)
- *The reality that whether marriage or not, we are already in one*

# The COST of Unfailing Love

4 And the Lord said to him, “Call his name **Jezreel**, for in just a little while **I will punish** the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and **I will put an end** to the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And on that day **I will break** the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name **No Mercy**, for **I will no more have mercy** on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. 7 But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. 9 And the Lord said, “Call his name **Not My People**, for you are not my people, and **I am not your God.**”

# The COST of Unfailing Love

- Children of Whoredom
  - Jezreel
  - Lo-Ruhamah (No Mercy)
  - Lo-Ammi (Not My People)
- Living Reminders of the Consequences Due to Their Actions
  - God's increasing judgment and discipline
  - 3 children over period of 7+ year
  - 40+ years of Hosea's prophetic ministry
- *The Sacrificial Cost Love Requires*

# The PROMISE of Unfailing Love

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And **in the place** where it was said to them, “You are not my people,” it shall be said to them, “Children of the living God.” 11 And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall **appoint for themselves one head**. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be **the day of Jezreel**. 2:1 Say to your brothers, “**You are my people,**” and to your sisters, “**You have received mercy.**”

# The PROMISE of Unfailing Love

- Children of Whoredom to Children of Promise:
  - Jezreel to the great day of Jezreel
  - Lo-Ruhamah (No Mercy) to Ruhamah (You Have Received Mercy)
  - Lo-Ammi (Not My People) to Ammi (You are My People)
- The Promise of Unfailing Love:
  - On that day...
  - In the Place...
  - They shall appoint One Head...
- *The Love of God Fails Not*

# Our Response...

- His Response? Her Response?
- God's Response? Our Response?
- *Be willing to ask, "God, how are we doing?"*
  - The REALITY of Unfailing Love
  - The COST of Unfailing Love
  - The PROMISE of Unfailing Love

# Our Response...

- We all have at one point or another been unfaithful to God
  - *14:1 Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.*
- We all have areas we are prone towards straying away
  - *14:9 Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.*