

Major Profit from Minor Prophets

(Hosea)

- Introduction:
1. We often divide the 17 Old Testament prophetic books into “major” and “minor” categories.
 2. This is done merely due to the size of the book, and not the character, courage, message, emphasis, and practicality of the books.
 3. I’m convinced that preachers, especially, need to be more familiar with the prophets.
 - a. It would transform the way the preach in substance as well as urgency and temperament.
 4. Tonight we are going to begin a 12-week study of the minor prophets, beginning with Hosea.

I. Brief Background to the book of Hosea

- A. Hosea is a pre-exilic prophet.
- B. It was written to the northern kingdom of Israel.
- C. It provides a dramatic illustration of God’s love for his bride, Israel.
- D. The book is an appeal to an unfaithful people to return to their faithful God who loves them.

II. Practical Lessons to Learn from Hosea

- A. Hosea & Gomer (Hosea 1:2).
 1. Hosea must be one of the saddest books in the Bible.
 2. The heartache of Hosea reflects the heartache of God and helps us understand the depth of God’s love for us.
- B. The Valley of Akor (Hosea 2:15).
 1. (Joshua 7:24).
 2. The Lord is saying that their only hope is discipline and purity.
 3. There’s as much if not more said about discipline in the N.T. than the Lord’s Supper.
- C. Destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6).
 1. (1 Corinthians 2:8-9).
 2. Ignorance crucified the Lord.
 3. We are to be the pillar and ground of truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- D. Leave the landmarks alone (Hosea 5:10).
 1. God has set boundaries (2 John 9-11).
 2. It’s no small thing to trifle with God’s boundaries.
- E. Half-baked cake (Hosea 7:8).
 1. We need balance!
 2. If some brethren were as zealous for Jesus as they are for politics and sports, we’d turn the world upside-down.
- F. We reap what we sow (Hosea 8:7).
 1. (Galatians 6:7-8).
- G. It is time to seek the Lord (Hosea 10:12).
 1. There should be an urgency in serving God.
 2. We’ve spent enough time in sin (1 Peter 4:2).
- H. How can I give you up (Hosea 11:8)?
 1. God’s justice and compassion meet in this expression.
 2. This reveals much about God’s love for us.

- Conclusion:
1. Hosea 11:4 & 14:4 - In spite of our sinfulness, God wants us back.
 2. This book speaks as much to us today as it did the Old Testament Israel.