



New International Version is used for questions

1. Read Hosea 3:1. What did God tell Hosea to do and what did he tell Hosea in advance was going to happen? Why did he tell Hosea to do this? How could God tell his prophet to do this? How would you have responded if you were in Hosea's place?
2. Read Hosea 6:6. What does this verse mean? How should this affect us?
3. In the book of Hosea, Gomer is a representation of Israel, in what way? How had they been unfaithful to God like a prostitute? This book is also a warning to us, how do we act like a prostitute toward God? Read James 4:4. According to this verse, what is spiritual adultery? What does it mean to be a friend to the world?
4. The book of Hosea demonstrates how that even though God's people betrayed him, he still loved them. What five things must we do in order to love those who have betrayed us? Read Ephesians 4:31,32. Why should we forgive those who betray us?
5. If we are unwilling to forgive those who betray us, what will it do to us? What happens when you become bitter?
6. Pastor Rick said that we cannot heal if we are unwilling to do what? Why do we pretend that the things that cause us pain do not exist?
7. Is there someone in our lives that betrayed us and we have not forgiven? Are we experiencing bitterness because we have not dealt with our pain?

Answers

1. *God told Hosea to go and marry Gomer and that she would be commit adultery and be unfaithful to him. He told Hosea to do this because he was going to use Hosea and Gomer's marriage and their children as visual object lessons of what Israel had done to God and how that God would still love them despite their unfaithfulness. God could tell Hosea to do this because Hosea was willing to do the will of God in his life even if it meant he would suffer the pain of betrayal.*
2. *This verse means that God is more interested in why we do what we do than what we actually do, even when what we do is what he has commanded us to do. God's ultimate will is to have a personal relationship with Him and to love Him as a person so that what we do is because of our love for him.*
3. *Gomer is a representation of Israel because just like she is unfaithful to Hosea, Israel was always worshipping other Gods and turning away from the Lord. God calls this spiritual adultery, cheating on Him. When we place anything in our lives as more important than God, then we are committing spiritual adultery, we are cheating on God. Specifically James 4:4 tells us that when the things of this world are more important than God in our lives, we are cheating on Him.*
4. *The five things we must do when we are betrayed are: a. Face my pain; b. Ask God to come into my brokenness; c. Release bitterness immediately; d. Receive healing; and e. Find my identity in God. We should forgive those who betray us because God has forgiven all of our betrayal of him. It is the only way to avoid becoming bitter.*
5. *If we are unwilling to forgive, we will become bitter. When we become bitter it chokes out all of the joy of life and it begins to affect all of our relationships. We cannot love God and be bitter at the same time. At some point, we will turn against God because we will blame Him for what others have done to us.*
6. *You cannot heal if you are unwilling to face what is causing your pain. We believe the lie that if we ignore what is causing the pain, it will eventually go away and it will not.*