

No Matter What – May 12, 2021

So many people live life in fear – afraid something bad might happen...
Afraid of the unknown... afraid of change... Afraid of failure. Health...
Afraid that someone will stop loving them. (fear – worry)

Ever ask – “Will you tell me that you love me?” We need reassurance.

Tonight, want to give some reassurance . . . and give you the remedy.

Remedy to worry & fear is knowing God & the love of God.

Matt 6:32 - [Contemporary English Version](#) – “Only people who don't know God are always worrying about such things.”

NLT - Rom. 8:38-39 - “I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Nothing can separate – **stop** – God from loving us.

Not our failures or sin, our doubts or insecurities, or anger . . .

Book of Hosea. Hosea’s life is symbolic. Shows the way God loves us.
Hosea married a promiscuous woman – Gomer.

He did so – symbolic - b/c Israel was unfaithful to God.

- Gomer has a son, named **Jezreel** b/c God was going to punish Israel for being unfaithful/abandoning what they knew was right.
- Gomer has a daughter, named her Lo-Ruhamah (“not loved”) b/c God was no longer going to show love to His people.
- Gomer has another son, **Lo-Ammi** (“not my people”) b/c Israel was not living as God’s people.

Hos. 1:10 - “**Yet** the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’”

Even while we’re unfaithful, God is still planning to bless us.

Hosea 2 shows how God yearns for us. Wants us to return to Him (acknowledge), & be faithful to Him, so we can experience the best of life.

- He “blocks the path with thornbushes.” **Hos. 2:6.**
 - He makes life hard - come to our senses. . . get our attention
- Designed so the unfaithful wife will say, “I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.” **Hos. 2:7**
 - Like Prodigal Son – you can lie in a pig pen or go back home.
 - We have a choice. But God doesn’t stop loving us.
 - God won’t give up on u. He loves u too much to let u go.
- He continues to draw us to Him...

Hos. 2:14-15 – “Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. 15 There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor (“trouble”) a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.”

Why? In the wilderness, we can appreciate what God provides.

[*Restriction* makes you appreciate the privileges - goodness]

Even in wilderness, we have God’s tenderness, instead of harshness.

- He wants to again BLESS us – provide - needs met
- Problems give way to HOPE for the future.

Hos. 2:23 – “I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; & they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

Acts of **rebellion** and unfaithfulness displease God. Israel & Judah had “spirit of prostitution” – arrogant – did not acknowledge God.

BUT - God still says I love you **no matter what**. Never leave you.

- Not Abandon you. Turn His back on you. He still claims you.

God’s love wants to give us a family – His. He wants to give us a place.

This plays out in Hosea's life:

Hos. 3:1-3 – “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels (6 oz) of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley (about 430 pounds). 3 Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

- God loves us even when we don't love Him.
- We say a “pound of flesh” is a harsh demand. God gives much more.
- We are God's, created in His image – yet thru Jesus – bought us back

This shows the human heart –

- **Hos. 13:5-6** – “I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat. 6 When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.”

God's answer is this: **Hos. 14**

- v. 4** - “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely”
- v. 5** – God will be “like the dew” – providing so we “blossom like a lily”
- v. 7** - “People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine;”

God loves us no matter what. He seeks to draw us back to Him.

When we wander – are promiscuous – He leaves the 99...

His love continues, even when we refuse to acknowledge Him.

Song of the week – “No Matter What” by Ryan Stevenson