

**Faithfulness, Justice, Mercy & Expectations**  
**Hosea 2:19-20; Amos 5:15, 24**  
**Jonah 2:9, 4:11; Micah 6:8**

Good morning church! I am glad to be back this morning in person. The last two weeks I went to church in my pajamas because I watched our service online.

Let me say publicly that Pastor Tim did an excellent job sharing the Word. Both of his sermons were on point, thanks Tim for sharing the Word with us.

Well you know what happens when the preacher goes on vacation and then comes back refreshed and ready to preach? You got it! I hope you brought a snack with you; we might be here a while.

Today we continue our sermon series...

**Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture**

Before we jump into our sermon for today, I feel compelled to remind you that we are reading the bible chronologically together for transformation not information. My prayer is that you are becoming more like the Savior. The more we look like Him the more we shine!

I have been struggling all week with the direction of the sermon this morning. Having missed three Sundays has put me behind a bit. So what I want to do is catch us this morning by way of a quick review and then we will see what lessons the Lord has for us.

By now you are aware that Samuel, Kings and Chronicles cover a lot of the history of Israel and her downward slope into pagan worship and rebellion against God. The kings who were supposed to represent the Lord, turned the hearts of the people away from Him.

There were times when the nation experienced times of refreshing and revival under the likes of Hezekiah and Josiah. However, even those times would not last long before the people returned to their wicked ways.

Throughout our reading these past few weeks we have seen this pattern, read God's warnings of coming judgement but have also witnessed His faithfulness toward His chosen nation.

I know that a lot more has happened in the narratives we read but this gives you a 1,000-foot view of the reading. Now that we are caught up...

Our goal this morning is to see what we can learn from the four minor prophets — Hosea, Amos, Jonah and Micah. Once again, I hope you are seeing how God delivered one seamless message through the Bible.

Ok let's jump right into the heart of today's message. I want you to see four lessons we learn from these four minor prophets. I will be using the theme and key verses of each book as our text.

## **1. God is Faithful Even When We are Faithless...Hosea**

a. Author: Hosea

i. Meaning of His Name: Salvation, God Saves

ii. He Had a Long Prophetical Career

1. About 50 years (760 – 710 BC)

2. List of Kings He Prophesied Under

a. Kings of Judah (Southern Kingdom)

i. Uzziah 790-739 BC

ii. Jotham 750-731 BC

iii. Ahaz 735-715 BC

iv. Hezekiah 715-686 BC

b. King of Israel (Northern Kingdom)

i. Jerobam II 739-753

ii. Period of Anarchy in Between Kings

iii. He Was a Contemporary to both Isaiah & Micah

b. The historical setting of his prophecy is recorded in both 2 Kings 14-20 and 2 Chronicles 26-32

His marriage to Gomer served as an object lesson for the nation. Their waywardness was like that of an adulteress wife who would not remain faithful to her husband. Time and time again she returned to her sinful ways.

Yet time and time again, Hosea would go and get his wife back and bring her home. His example was a testimony of love and faithfulness toward an unfaithful wife, but remember it was an object lesson that reflected God's love for his wayward people.

Here is the key verse...

*Hosea 2:19–20 (NKJV) — 19 “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; 20 I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD.*

Do you see the faithfulness of God? His faithfulness is based on two things...

- **His Promises**

*Hebrews 6:17-18 (NKJV) — 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.*

- **His Character**

*2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV) — 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

## **2. God is Concerned about How we Treat Others...Amos**

### ***I. The people will be judged, 1:3 – 2:16***

- a. Damascus = Sledged of torture, 1:3-5
- b. Gaza = Slave trafficking, 1:6-8
- c. Tyre = Severing treaty, 1:0-10

- d. Edom = Sword of terror, 1:11-12
- e. Ammon = Sadistic triumphant, 1:13-15
- f. Moab = Spoiling tombs, 2:1-3
- g. Judah = Spurning the torah, 2:4-5
- h. Israel = Social transgressions, 2:6-16

**II. *The purpose of Judgment, 3:1-6:14***

- a. First Message = Ruined Relationships, 3:1-15
- b. Second Message = Refusal to repent, 4:1-13
- c. Third Message = Repentance requested, 5:1-17
- d. Fourth Message = Ritual reviewed, 5:18-27
- e. Fifth Message = Rich at rest, 6:1-14

**III. *Pictures of Judgment, 7:1-9:10***

- a. Vision of locusts = judgment diverted, 7:1-3
- b. Vision of fire = judgment delayed, 7:4-6
- c. Vision of plumb line = judgment determined, 7:7-9
- d. Vision of priest = judgment dialogue, 7:10-13
- e. Voice of the prophet = judgment described, 7:14-17
- f. Vision of summer fruit = judgment declared, 8:1-14
- g. Vision of the Lord = judgment day, 9:1=10

**IV. *Prosperity after judgment, 9:11-15***

- a. Possession of Israel, 9:11-12
- b. Productivity in Israel, 9:13-14
- c. Permanent promise to Israel, 9:15

Here is the key verse...

*Amos 5:15, 24 (NKJV) — 15 Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph...24 But let justice run down like water, And righteousness like a mighty stream.*

What about social justice? Does the church need to be engaged in the social justice movement today?

These are good questions, and I would say that we need to be to the extent that we fulfill...

*Romans 13:8–10 (NKJV) — 8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

We must stand on biblical truth, love all people, and walk in justice.

### **3. God is Merciful Toward All Peoples of the Earth...Jonah**

- a. Author: Jonah son of Amittai
  - i. Reference to him in 2 Kings 14:25
  - ii. The Lord Jesus made 2 reference to Jonah in Matthew 12:40 and Luke 11:32

Here is the key verse...

*Jonah 2:9; 4:11 (NKJV) — 9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”...11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?*

We cannot escape that God has a love for the world...He has a missionary heart. After all we read...

*2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) — 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

*John 3:16 (NKJV) — 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

#### **4. God's Expectation on How to Treat Others...Micah**

- a. Little is known about Micah
- b. His name means "Who is Like Yahweh"
- c. He was a contemporary of Isaiah
- d. He prophesied during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah kings of Judah

#### **II. Historical Background**

- a. 2 Kings 15:32-20:21
- b. 2 Chronicles 27-32
- c. Isaiah 7, 20, 36-39

Here is the key verse...

*Micah 6:8 (NKJV) — 8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*

#### **Act Justly**

*James 2:8-9 (NKJV) — 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.*

#### **Love Mercy**

*1 John 4:7-8 (NKJV) — 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

## Walk Humbly

*Philippians 2:3 (NKJV) — 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. God is Faithful Even When We are Faithless...Hosea
2. God is Concerned about How we Treat Others...Amos
3. God is Merciful Toward All Peoples of the Earth...Jonah
4. God's Expectation on How to Treat Others...Micah