

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

March 28, 2018

Pastor Ben Hicks

Sowing and Reaping

Hosea 10:9-15

Have you ever been right before and hated it? Have you ever warned someone over and over that they were headed for disaster, and had to watch as your warnings slowly came to pass? Unfortunately, many Christians live as if they are the exception to the rule. They think that God's warnings apply to others in different situations, but not to them. Hosea warns us in chapter 10 that such thinking is dangerous and will lead to disastrous ruin. From this passage we see that. . .

You can choose your actions

but God chooses your consequences

I. God teaches us that actions have consequences.

A. Our sinful actions have consequences.

1. Our sinful actions bring God's judgment (vv 9-10, 14-15).

Hosea begins by reminding the people of the sin of Gibeah in Judges 19-21. This sickening story of rape, murder, cover up, and civil war was a low point for the nation, and things haven't changed since then. God's response is to bring judgment against the nation just as he once did against Gibeah.

2. Our sinful actions forfeit God's blessings (v 11).

God pictures his original call to Israel as threshing corn, which was much more enjoyable since it was easier work and they could eat some of the food (Deuteronomy 25:4). Sadly, Israel rebelled against God's plan and so she along with Judah were going to be put in a much harder situation – plowing tough fields (cf Isaiah 47:6).

B. Our righteous actions have consequences (v 12).

Although this passage is mainly a warning, it is a promise as well. Those who sow in righteousness will reap God's mercy, or his kindness. Perhaps this seems odd to us, can we earn God's mercy? No, obviously not, but our obedience gives God the opportunity to lavish his grace on us.

II. God teaches us how to live right since our actions have consequences (v 12).

A. Realize the importance of every choice. Too often we overestimate the importance of big decisions and underestimate the effect of a thousand small decisions. What you will be tomorrow you are becoming today.

B. Deal immediately with sin. Tomorrow will always seem like a better time to take care of your sin. But if that is your attitude, tomorrow will never come. Has God put a sin on your heart that time and again that you put off until a "better" time?

C. Seek God. Our hearts change as they are exposed to the beauty and the glory of God. If you want to sow righteousness, seek God.