

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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Would You Just Listen?

Hosea 12:7-15

How often do we hear the warnings of God's Word, perhaps even see others make the same mistake and come to a disastrous ruin, and then proceed to make the very same mistakes? God had warned his people over and over through his prophets, and over and over they had ignored them. It makes you want to just yell out "Come on, haven't you figured it out yet? This isn't going to end well!" And yet too often we get done shaking our heads at the foolishness of Israel and go out to disobey God in ways he has warned us not to and in ways we have seen others pay the price.

We have to take God's warnings seriously.

- I. **Take God's warnings seriously because you can't escape God's examination (vv 7-8, 10-11).**
 - A. **Beware an attitude that clings to sin (vv 7-8).**
 1. **Beware your sinful heart ("loved to oppress").**
 2. **Beware the dulling effect of wealth.**
 - B. **Beware a life that rejects God's Word (vv 7, 10-11; cf 9:7).**

But we shouldn't just fear God's examination, because God's examination leads to God's judgment.

- II. Take God's warnings seriously because you can't escape God's discipline (vv 9, 11, 14).**
 - A. God's discipline is personal (v 9).**
 - B. God's discipline is certain (v 11).**
 - C. God's discipline is fair (v 14).**

These first two points have been somewhat negative, but God also wants his people to listen to him because of the good stuff he has done.

- III. Take God's warnings seriously because God has done much for you (vv 9, 12-13).**
 - A. God reminded Israel of his care for them in the wilderness (v 9).**
 - B. God reminded Israel of his care for them in the exodus (vv 12-13).**

We learn an important truth from Christ's interaction with the Pharisees in Matthew 23:34-39: We will not be ultimately judged by how we evaluate the responses of dead people who lived thousands of years ago. We will be judged by how we respond today when that same God speaks through his Word and his messengers proclaiming his Word. Your attitude toward the Bible when it starts meddling with your personal life will show what your attitude would have been if you had lived during the time of Hosea, or Moses, or Jeremiah.

