



February 7, 2018

Pastor Ben Hicks

A Hot Oven, a Burnt Pancake, and a Dumb Brid
Hosea 7:3-16

Have you ever met someone who was very sick yet refused to get help, because they claimed they weren't sick? What they wanted to be reality clouded out what actually was reality and the result was they didn't address a very real problem. Many a tearful child has pleaded with their parent to get help, only to watch them succumb to preventable diseases. Unfortunately, many people have the same reaction to sin in their lives. They ignore it. Downplay the seriousness of it. Pretend there are no effects of it. What about you? Have you ever faced the destructiveness of your sins? Have you ever seen your sin for what it is? Do you see sin as God sees it? Or are you willfully ignorant?

Beware the silent, destructive power of lusts.

I. A Hot Oven: A Heart of Lust Explodes Suddenly (3-7).

Lusts can be intense and long lasting

A. Sinful desires are fed by sinful actions. Israel is charged with many, many sins throughout this section and the

previous one (6:7-7:16). All of these sins fed and were fed by desires that burned beneath the surface.

- B. Sinful desires smolder with deceptive quietness.** Just like hot coals that may appear gray and dead on the outside, the heat of sinful passions burned underneath the surface for these officials, waiting to burst forth.

II. A Burnt Pancake: A Heart of Lust Destroys Silently (8-10).

Lust quietly destroys from the inside out

- A. A heart of lust destroys by leading to worldliness.** Ephraim became mixed with the peoples. Those live for the things of the world will soon find themselves surrounded by those of the world.
- B. A heart of lust destroys incrementally.** The process of death and decay was so slow that Ephraim didn't even realize it was happening until it was too late.

III. A Dumb Bird: A Heart of Lust Distances Spiritually (11-16).

Lust kills your relationship with God

- A. A heart of lust causes us to look outside God for help.
- B. A heart of lust causes us to trust our own wisdom for help.
- C. A heart of lust prevents genuine repentance.
- D. A heart of lust will lead to our destruction.