

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

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Be More Like Jacob

Hosea 11:12-12:6

Do you ever find yourself thinking you know better than the instructions you've been given? Do you ever find that something is taking too long to do it the right way and think you might have found a shortcut? Does God's way ever seem to be too difficult or long or weird to follow? How do we respond when we're tempted to take control of our lives? When God's way feels and tastes like death (as Christ promised it would!) And what do we do when we realize we have been living by our own way and not God's?

I. A negative example: Israel and Judah fail to trust God (11:12-12:2).

A. Reasons Israel rejected God's way.

1. **God's way didn't make sense** - God's military strategy was "trust Me" rather than look to armies, chariots, or superior tactics.
2. **God's way was really difficult**- Living faithfully to God's commands was a whole lot harder than what Baal was asking for. It's much easier to throw some worship God's way than to live your life for him.

B. Results of Israel rejecting God's way.

- 1. Israel was doomed to futility** – few things are as futile as throwing out the wisdom of the Creator and then expecting life to work out for you.
- 2. Israel was playing with fire** – trying to control our destiny while ignoring God is a dangerous choice.

So is there any hope for change for someone living this way?

II. A hopeful example: Jacob learns to trust God (12:3-5).

- A. Jacob began his life fighting with men to get his way.**
- B. Jacob came to a place of broken dependence.**
- C. Jacob met with the God of Israel.**

So how do we go from being proud to being dependent?

III. A personal choice: Will you trust God? (12:6)

- A. To trust God you must return to him** – biblical change starts when we come back to God and restore our relationship with him.
- B. To trust God you must obey him** – if you want God's help, you must live God's way.
- C. To trust God you must wait on him** – patiently hoping and continuing to hope for God is the key whenever we go through difficult times.