

HOSEA STUDY

Lesson Six: “The Opportunistic Clergy and the Straying Stubborn” Hosea 4:7-19

INTRODUCTION

HOSEA 4:7-19

This passage deals with two topics:

1. Opportunism of the Clergy. (7-11)
2. When the Stubborn Stray. (12-19)

THE OPPORTUNISM OF THE CLERGY (Hosea 4:7-11)

1. THE CHALLENGE OF SPIRITUAL LEADERS:

People RISE or SINK to their level.

Verse 9: “Like PEOPLE, like PRIEST.”

2. THE PICTURE OF PRIESTS IN HOSEA’S DAY (7-11)

- OPPORTUNISTS
- Judged success with SIZE.
- Lived lavish LIFESTYLES.
- Lacked PURITY of devotion to God.
- The more they INCREASED, the more they sinned.

3. GOD RENDERS A VERDICT. (v. 8)

4. GOD DESCRIBES THE PUNISHMENT. (vs. 9-10)

5. THE APPLICATION TODAY

- MISTRUST of clergy abounds.
- We still think BIGGER is better.
- Our challenge as leaders is clear:
PREACH, TEACH and LIVE the Word of God.

Raise up PEOPLE to be distinctly different from society around them.

WHEN THE STUBBORN STRAY (Hosea 4:12-19)

In these verses, in addition to harlotry and apostasy, Hosea adds another sin of the people: STUBBORNNESS.

1. "FOR ISRAEL IS STUBBORN – LIKE A STUBBORN CALF." (v. 16)

2. STRAYING FEEDS STUBBORNNESS, AND STUBBORNNESS FEEDS STRAYING.

Things where we are stubbornly straying today:

These things all demand our LOYALTY.

ANYTHING and ANYONE that threatens to occupy the throne of our hearts is an IDOL.

MATTHEW 21:33-34

1. BACKGROUND TO THIS PASSAGE
2. WE ARE THE VINEYARDS OF GOD.
3. BUT WHAT DO WE DO?
4. GOD DOES NOT WANT TO BE OUR GUEST.
5. EACH OF US HAS OUR OWN BRAND OF STUBBORNNESS.

Will You Give YOUR Stubbornness To God?