

Bible Studies, Series 3, Week 4

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read: Hosea 5: 8-11

Verse 9: God does not come with meaningless threats. In 722 BC The Northern kingdom was destroyed and in 701 BC Judah and Benjamin were brought to their knees.

Verse 10: The attention is drawn to Judah now. Judah is guilty of stealing land. Even though God uses Judah as His instrument, He does not condone their behavior.

Questions for personal Bible Study:

1. What does it tell you of God's love that He announces his punishment in advance? (Verse 8)
2. What is the worst result of Israel's sin according to verse 9?
3. How does Romans 6: 23(a) adds to this thought?
4. Do you think it is worth it to persevere in sin? Explain your answer.

Personal application:

1. What struck you most in today's piece?
2. Does God give you a task for today, something you have to do?
3. Pray for strength for the day and your task.

For the evening:

1. Read Romans 6: 1-23
2. What did you do with today's task?
3. Thank God if you succeeded and confess it if you failed and pray for wisdom and strength.
4. Try and find the reason why you did not succeed (if you failed)

Day: 2

Read: Hosea 5: 12-14

Verse 12: "moth to Ephraim" and "house of Judah as rottenness" A way to say that the nation took God's punishment as a nuisance kind of disease as incurable diseases.

Verse 13: "King Jareb" Another name for the king of Assyria.

Questions for personal study:

1. What was the mistake Israel made when they went looking for help in their time of difficulties? (Compare verse 13)
2. Do people still make this mistake today?
3. Name a few other things people depend on for help today, instead of looking to God for help.
4. If you look at the last few words of verse 13, why do you think it was a mistake for Israel to look toward Assyria for help?
5. What do you think the metaphor in verse 14 wants to tell about God and His actions towards Israel and Judah?

Personal applications:

1. To whom do you really go for help in times of trouble?
2. Make it your target for today to trust God alone for everything. (Compare Philippians 4: 13)
3. Ask God to help you with it.

For the evening:

1. Read Psalm 146
2. Think of your day and where you trusted God for everything or where you failed to do so. Try and find out why you did what you did.
3. Do you perhaps think that there are things and people that are more important to you than God?
4. Pray for help in this if you failed. Do not get disheartened though and carry on in faith. God is a loving God and has a lot of patience with our weaknesses if we are really trying.

Day: 3

Read: Hosea 5: 15-6: 3

Verse 2: "After two days....in the third day" It is meant to indicate a short period and not an exact time frame.

Questions for personal study:

What are the important things they have to do, according to verse 15, before there can be reconciliation between them and God? (Read 1 John 1: 9)

How does God react to people returning to Him, according to verse 1-2? (Have a look at Ezekiel 33: 11)

Does the motif in verse 2 play any role in the resurrection of Christ?

Personal application:

1. Name only one thought that you really noticed today.

2. What are you going to do about it?
3. Pray for obedience and strength.

For the evening:

1. Read 1 John 1: 5-10
2. How did it go today with your life as a Christian?
3. Confess every sin you are aware of and take God's forgiveness on the grounds of 1 John 1: 9.

Day: 4

Read Hosea 6: 4-6

Verse 4: "a morning cloud" Something short lived, the wish of the nation to return. Take note that according to verse 3 it appears as if they are beginning to understand that they will have to change. From verse 4-5 it appears as if there were no real change.

Verse 6: An important verse, quoted by Jesus on two occasions, Mathew 9: 13 and 12: 7.

Question for personal study:

1. What was the quality of their love according to verse 4?
2. How strong does God feel about the fact that He is going to punish their sins? (Verse 5)
3. What is it that God really expects from them concerning their attitude towards Him?

Personal application:

1. What is the quality and sincerity of your love for God?
2. How can you live that love in a practical way today?
3. What are you going to do to improve your love for God?

For the evening:

1. Judge your efforts of the day.
2. Read Isaiah 1: 11-20 and pray.

Day: 5

Read Hosea 6: 7-11

Adam, Gilead, Shechem: towns where there were Holy place of God.

Question for personal study:

1. Read Genesis 17: 7 & 9. What is the content of the covenant between God and Israel?
2. In which ways is it made clear that Israel did not honor this covenant?
3. What are the consequences for a nation if their leaders become unfaithful to God as in verse 9?
4. What is God's reaction towards this unfaithfulness?

Personal application:

1. As faithful child of God, you are included in the new covenant in Jesus Christ. Plan how you are going to act today in such a way that everyone will see that your truth and loyalty lies with God.
2. Accept God's strength in prayer.

For the evening:

1. Where you a true child of God's covenant today?
2. Thank God where you have been triumphant in temptations and confess where you have stumbled.
3. Read Isaiah 1: 18 and accepts God's forgiveness.

Day: 6

Read Romans 3 and Psalm 27

It is time again to evaluate the past week. Read your answers to the questions again. Evaluate your successes and failures with your tasks. Thank God for your progress during this very demanding series. Plan the coming week prayerfully.

Try and attend at least one church service during the coming week and write down what spoke to you the most. Think about ways of implementing it in your life. Think about every aspect of a service, like the singing and the prayers and not just the preaching.

Group Bible Study

Read: Hosea 6: 1-6

1. Page back to the personal studies if you need to remind yourself of some of the questions answered, do not make your discussion too wide, try and keep to the questions.
2. What are the expectations that are the reason for the members of the nation to return to God?

3. Are their expectations correct? Name other verses in the Bible to motivate your answers.
4. What kind of repair do they expect in verse 2?
5. What are they planning to do according to verse 3(a)? How does a person do this in practice?
6. Discuss the meaning of the message in verse 3(b) and verse 4.
7. If one looks at verse 5-6 it appears as if God is definitely going to punish them. What was the problem with their sacrifices? (Compare 1 Samuel 15: 22 and Micah 6: 6-8)
8. In which way can we be guilty of the same transgression today -- even though we do not bring sacrifices any more?
9. Do you think it is possible to return to God after you have sinned? What are the conditions?
10. What is the main message of this Bible study and how can you, as a group, implement it in your lives in the coming week?