

## **Bible Study, Series 3, Week 5**

### **Personal Bible Study**

#### **Day: 1**

*Read Hosea 7: 1-2*

*Questions for personal study:*

1. Make a list of the sins that appeared in their lives.
2. What is the bad mistake the nation were guilty of according to verse 2?
3. What, in your mind, is a way that a person can try and hide a sin from God?

*Personal application:*

1. What spoke to you the most in these verses?
2. How are you going to apply it in your life today?
3. Pray for strength for the day.

*For the evening:*

1. Read psalm 51 with attention.
2. How did it go with your task for the day?
3. Pray about it, thanking God for successes and asking help and forgiveness for failures.

#### **Day: 2**

*Read: Hosea 7: 3-7*

Hosea is using the times as his reference. Hosea (not our prophet) is a murderer that has just been made king. Instead of confessing their sins to God and repenting, they are having feasts in the honor of the sinful king.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What could have given the king the impression that he has followers, according to verse 3?
2. What were the real circumstances with these so called followers?
3. Do you think that it still happens today that people deliver a service under false pretences, even in the church?
4. What are the reason and the result of such a service? (Verse 7)

*Personal application:*

1. Are you really a trustworthy person?
2. How are you going to show it today?
3. Dedicate the day to God in prayer.

*For the evening:*

1. Were you trustworthy today and could other people see it?
2. Read Proverbs 3; 1-10
3. Pray sincerely.

### **Day: 3**

*Read Hosea 7: 8-12*

Verse 8: The main issue here is Israel's foreign politics. They trusted falsely on many of their alliances with foreign countries.

"Mixed himself" A continuation of the picture of baking used in the previous verses. While the other nations were competing to get hold of Israel, Israel were following these nations. God did not want them to mix with these heathen nations. Because of the mixing, Israel is now a half-baked cake, the one side is raw and the other side is burned and it can easily get mold.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What was the Israelites sin according to these verses?
2. Where are they looking for help and where should they be looking for help?
3. What is God's reaction to this sin? (Verse 12)

*Personal application:*

1. What is the message to you in this piece?
2. What are you going to do with it today? Try and work out a practical way of application.
3. Ask God to help you.

*For the evening:*

1. Read psalm 14 and pay special attention to verse 2-3 when you are thinking about this Psalm.
2. Give account of your spiritual life as it appeared today.

### **Day: 4**

*Read Hosea 7: 13-16*

Verse 14: "Gash themselves" A way the heathens cut and and hurt themselves in the hope to gain favor with their idols, if they could persuade their idols to intervene in their favor.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What happens when one scorns God's will? (Verse 13 and 16)
2. What is content of Israel's sin? What does it consist of?
3. Did they know any better or not? Motivate your answer from verse 13 and 15.
4. What are the deductions you can make from verse 13(c) and 15 as to God's feeling towards Israel?

*Personal application:*

1. What struck you, in this piece, today?
2. What practical message are you going to take from it for yourself?

*For the evening:*

1. Evaluate your spiritual life as it manifested itself today.
2. Confess your failures and praise God for your successes.
3. Read Psalm 1 and pray.

## **Day: 5**

*Read: Psalm 32 again*

Keep in mind that this Psalm is a poem of thanks rather than of penance. David's sin has already been forgiven and we can learn a very important lesson from it.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. How does the life of a person that confesses his or her sin compare to the life of a person that keeps silent about his sins? (Verse 1-5)
2. What does God do when a person really and truly repents? (Verse 1-2 and 5)
3. In the light of question 2, what should a person's life's attitude be towards God? (Take special note of verse 6, 9 and 11)
4. Why is it unnecessary for a Christian to go through life laden with guilt?

*Personal application:*

1. What spoke to you in today's piece?
2. How are you going to apply this in your life today?
3. Pray for help.

*For the evening:*

1. Evaluate your life today. Where you successful in your task for the day? Thank God if you were and confess your failures and ask for help.
2. Read Luke 21: 34-38

## **Day: 6**

*Read: Hosea 7: 1- 16*

1. Do revision of the previous week's studies.
2. Have your life improved?
3. Were you successful in your tasks?
4. Where do you still need help?
5. Honestly have a serious look at your life to find out where there is still some deep rooted sin.
6. Try and attend one Church service this week and take a special message and task for yourself from it.

## **Group Bible Study**

*Read: Hosea 7: 3-16*

If you need to, you can look at the explanations in the individual studies for some of the verses.

1. Discuss the positive and the negative aspects of a false attitude towards life as it is made clear in verse 3-7.
2. The nation purposely did not enquire about God's will or try to find out what God's will is. Why do people do that?
3. What are the Israelites being accused of in verse 8-12 and 14-16?
4. Can these kinds of accusations still be brought against Christians today? Motivate your answer.
5. Why can it be dangerous to look at people for help in times of difficulty?
6. With what attitude should one look for help with God according to verse 14?
7. What is God's reaction if one does not live according to His will?
8. What was the heathens' reaction to Israel's unfaithfulness towards God and God's punishment according to verse 16? Does the world still act like that today?