

Title: Put Away Your Harlotry Part 1

Text: Hosea 2:2-5

Main Idea: The ungodly live in desperate need of repentance.

Division Statements:

Why the ungodly must repent (v.2):

1. They live under the threat of great shame (v. 3a).

“Lest I strip her naked...” The idea of being stripped naked here has to do with have one’s shamefulness exposed to the view of others. Lord warns us in Luke 12:2, “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.” When the secrets of your life are finally revealed will it be a matter of joy in the saving grace of God or a matter of great shame as you stand in judgment.

2. They live under the threat of insecurity (v. 3b).

“... and expose her, as in the day she was born...” Another threat God makes is that Israel will be left completely helpless as a newborn is helpless. And yet, they will be without the protection of their Father

3. They live under the threat of personal isolation and despair (3c).

“... and make her like a wilderness ...” (מִדְבָּר). A wilderness is often a place of isolation and despair. It is often described negatively in Scripture as a place without grapes, fountains, pools of water, friends, or pleasant places. Thus it is a very apt description of life in this world without God. On the other hand, for those who trust in Him God is able to prepare a table even in the wilderness (Ps. 78:19).

4. They live under the threat of unforgiveness and death (3d).

“...and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst...” God is a fountain of living water, and His teaching as a beautiful rain shower (Deut. 32:2). But for the ungodly who will not hear, believe and turn there is only judgment, death and a horrible unending and unsatisfied thirst (e.g. Luke 16:24).

5. They live under the threat of an unfruitful and utterly wasted life (v. 4).

“I will not have mercy on her children...” What could be worse than failure to leave a legacy of godliness for those who come after you? Note: It is not that God

curses the children because of the parent's sin (Ezek. 18:20), but because the children heedlessly follow in their parents footsteps, taking their example as the rule of their own lives.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Hosea reveals the desperate need for repentance in Israel.

Sermon Proposition: The ungodly live in desperate need of repentance.

Interrogative: Why must the ungodly repent?

Transition: The text reveals five threats hanging over the ungodly.

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