

Title: The Beauty Of Restraining Grace Part 1

Text: Hosea 2:6-13

Main Idea: God mercifully exercises restraining grace to bring His chosen ones back to Himself.

Division Statements:

1. God in His mercy makes the pursuit of sin unfruitful and dissatisfying (vv. 6-7).

God walls in His chosen with thorn bushes and prevents them from getting the satisfaction they desire. That she will continue to pursue them all the more is seen in the word “chase” a Piel (intensive) form of the verb *radap* (“to pursue, chase”). But God’s purpose of mercy will prevail. “My first husband” is a reference to God. Frustrated and dissatisfied with the pursuit of sin, the Beloved of God will be brought to the recognition that in Him there is true satisfaction.

2. God in His mercy takes away unacknowledged blessings (vv. 8-9).

The reason for unfaithfulness is given in verse 8. It is a failure to recognize the true source of good and blessing. But God in His mercy takes away those blessings that His Beloved might come to her senses.

3. God in His mercy reveals shamefulness (v. 10).

The phrase, “uncover her lewdness” (נְבִלּוּתָא (nabluth)) means exposing shamefulness and laying it open for all to see. One of the greatest acts of mercy God ever performs for a soul is to bring about conviction and reveal the truth of one’s shameful state, that such a person might become broken and contrite of heart and turn to God for.

4. God in His mercy takes away joy (v. 11).

“Mirth,” מְשׂוֹשׂ (masos), means joy or delight. As long as men loved the darkness more than light, they will refuse and reject God. Restraining grace reveals the truth that sin is simply a broken cistern, boasting much but only delivering dust and ashes, turning joy in worldliness into a godly sorrow and repentance that leads to life.

5. God in His mercy brings discipline to bear for false worship (vv. 12-13).

Just as God brings discipline on national Israel to return her to Himself, God chastens everyone who intends to take as His child. Such discipline is a mighty sign of divine grace being brought to bear on a soul (Heb. 12:7-10).

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: God reveals how He will mercifully bring restraining grace to bear on the nation of Israel so that it will repent and return to Him.

Sermon Proposition: God mercifully exercises restraining grace to bring His chosen ones back to Himself.

Interrogative: How does God bring restraining grace to bear.

Transition: The text reveals five actions that God takes in exercising His restraining grace.

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