

1 **A Marriage Made in Heaven: *Seeing Marriage from God's Point of View***

Wednesday Bible Study

January 12, 2011

Hosea 1-3

2 ***Question 1***

⌘ **Who would not want a marriage if they believed that it was a marriage made in heaven?**

3 ***Question 2***

⌘ **What exactly would a marriage made in heaven look like?**

4 ***Reality...***

⌘ **...a marriage made in heaven might look different, depending upon the person looking!!!**

5 ***Why?***

⌘ **Because we tend to see things not as they really are, but as we perceive them to be. There are times, however, when our perception does not equal reality.**

6 ***Perception...***

⌘ **...is our interpretation of what we see, hear**

and experience. Our perception is often shaped by our perspective.

7 **Example...**

⌘ We see a man and a woman walking together, holding hands, talking and smiling at each other. We perceive that they have a relationship

8 **Perspective...**

⌘ ...is our existing mindset, our preconceived ideas, and our values. Perspective shapes our perceptions..

9 **Example...**

⌘ We see a Black man and a White woman walking together, holding hands, talking and smiling at each other. We perceive that they have an inappropriate relationship

10 ***Perspective is...***

⌘ ...everything. How we view the institution of marriage will be determined by our point of view.

11 **Our goal as...**

⌘ ...believers is to grow continuously toward the place where we exchange our perspectives for God's perspectives...

12 Our Premise

⌘ When we begin to look at marriage from **God's point of view**, we will come to understand that **every marriage is a marriage made in heaven.**

13 The Book of Hosea

⌘ ...was written to demonstrate the steadfast or unyielding love of God for Israel in spite of her continued unfaithfulness.

14 Through Hosea's...

⌘ ...marital experience, the book shows us the heart of a **loving and compassionate God** who longs to bless His people with the **knowledge of Himself.**

15 Hosea's Message

⌘ The sovereignty of God is **clearly established in Scripture. Every man, woman and child lives and moves within the context of God's sovereignty. God is absolutely sovereign.**

16 God's Sovereignty

⌘ Every event in history, without exception, is either **directly caused or consciously allowed by God.**

17 **Human Responsibility**

⌘ God gives every person freedom to choose. He gives us legitimate choices but they are limited in some respects.

18 **All Human Beings...**

⌘ ...are free to exercise free choice, and are held responsible by God for the consequences of every choices.

19 **Key Point**

⌘ Every choice that we make invariably fits into God foreordained plan for our lives. God knew ahead of time.

20 **God's Perfect Will**

⌘ God's decree or God's plan is "God's eternal purpose, according to the wise council of his own will, whereby, for His own glory, he has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass" ("Shorter Catechism," Question 7, *Westminster Confession of Faith*). The great purpose of this plan is the manifestation His glory in all His divine perfections.

21 **His Purpose**

22 **Foreordained**

23 **Foreordained...**

24 **Understanding God's Will**

25 **God's Decrees**

26 **Important Caveats**

27 **Important Caveats**

28 **God's Permissive Will**

29 **God's Directive Will...**

30 ***Psalm 50:10-11***

⌘“For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird on the mountain, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. Psalm 50:10-11 (Everything belongs to God and He has the right to do with them as he pleases)

31 ***Psalm 103:19***

⌘“The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.” (God has supreme authority and all other authority in the earth flows out of that authority)

32 **Psalm 135:6**

33 **1 Timothy 6:15b-16**

34 **Isaiah 40:13-14**

35 **Hosea 1:1-3**

36 **Hosea's Message**

⌘ God is absolutely sovereign over every area of our lives, including our work lives, our school lives, and our married lives. God ordains from heaven who we will marry in every situation.

37 In Hosea's Marriage...

⌘...God by His directive will told Hosea who he should marry. Hosea could have chosen to disobey, but God foreordained his obedience.

38 In our situation...

⌘...God by His permissive will allowed us to choose our mates. Our choice was already a part God's sovereign plan. He shaped our experiences and personalities, and He limited our choices.

39 The Bottom Line

⌘ God allows us to choose a spouse but He foreordains our choice, and then holds us accountable for that choice.

40 Hosea's Message

⌘ Marriage is symbolic in the eyes of God. It was conceived by God to communicate a reality that transcends the institution of marriage itself.

41 Hosea's Marriage

⌘ "When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry and have children of harlotry; *for the land commits flagrant harlotry, forsaking the LORD.*" (Hosea 1:2)

42 ***Hosea's marriage...***

⌘...to a prostitute was intended to illustrate to the nation God's perspective on their conduct.

43 **God was willing...**

⌘...to subject His prophet to public humiliation in order to accomplish His divine purpose.

44 **God's Message**

⌘I am sovereign in the spouse-selection process because it is not about you. You are going to marry who I intend for you to marry even though you do the choosing.

45 **Your Responsibility**

⌘Develop a habit of trying to see life from God's point of view and be prepared to obey Him even when it does not feel good.

46 **God's Message**

⌘When God selects our spouse for us, He expects us to love her/him for who they are and not what they do.

47 **Hosea 3:1a**

⌘“Then the Lord said to me, Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an

adulteress, even as the Lord loves the sons of Israel...”

48 **Lesson 1**

⌘ God is sovereign over every area of our lives, including the selection of the person we will marry.

49 **Lesson 2**

⌘ Marriage is designed by God to accomplish His purpose and is not necessarily for our pleasure.

50 **Lesson 3**

⌘ God hates divorce and a marriage is not over until God says it is over.

51 **Lesson 4**

⌘ If we want to be in the center of God's will, we need to learn to see life from God's point of view.