

Returning to God
Hosea 6:1-3;14:1-9
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn about repentance from the events of Hosea's time.

- Intro: 1. What does repentance require of man?
2. How does God respond to man's repentance.

I. Desire to return

- A. One must desire to return
1. The desire to come back to God is key to repentance (6:1a)
 2. God desires for the sinner to come to Him (14:1-2a)
- B. The people confess only God saves.
1. Previously God had asked them who could save them (13:9-11)
 2. Here they confess no one can save them but God (14:2b-3)

II. Forgiveness described

- A. God's healing
1. To heal means He will restore them, bring them back (14:4)
 2. Those who return will be restored, strengthened, & revived (14:5-7)
- B. What the forgiven will say? (14:8)
1. Those who return will confess idols have no hold on them any longer (v.8a)
 2. **The LORD'S reaction:**
 - a. **"I have heard him."** It is the LORD that answers prayers.
 - b. **"I have observed him."** It is the LORD that watches over Israel (and over us).
 - c. **"Your fruit is found in me."** All wonderful blessings come from the LORD.
- C. Advice given (14:9)
1. The ways of the LORD are right, and those with wisdom and understanding recognize this.
 2. The just will recognize the Lord's way is right and walk in them,
 3. The wicked will fall because they do not know the Lord.

III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. God will pull them from the dark
1. God will save them by their repentance & His forgiveness (12:6)
 2. Those who desire repentance must determine that they will follow Him continually.
- B. God is the only source of hope for the sinner. (13:9)
1. Those who desire forgiveness must recognize that mercy and justice can only be found in God.
 2. God grants pardon, no one else.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Do you desire to be right in the sight of God?
2. If sin is in our lives the Bible reveals what must be done.

3. Are you ready to do what God requires?
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9