

# “Three Love Stories”

Sermon Based Discussion (August 18, 2013)

Sermon Series:

Forgiveness (4)

## WARM UP

1. What is the most memorable love story you know (real or fiction)?

Love involves not only warm fuzzy feelings about someone but it often involves forgiveness of wrongs committed against us. However, forgiving someone is sometimes not easy because the person has hurt us so deeply. Let us look at an example of extraordinary love and forgiveness in the Bible.

## INTO THE BIBLE (Read Hosea 1-3)

2. What is the context of the book?
3. Hosea was told by God to marry a woman who would eventually become an adulterer and a prostitute. If you were married and your spouse became unfaithful and became a prostitute, how would you feel?

## UNDERSTANDING

4. How do the names of the children of Hosea and Gomer express God’s response to the spiritual adultery of Israel? Is that God’s final response according to 1:10, 11?
5. Gomer/Israel pursued other lovers to supply their needs (2:5). Yet it was Hosea/God that behind the scenes actually provided for her/their needs. How are we guilty of the same mistake?

6. Well known Pastor James Montgomery Boice called Hosea 3 the greatest chapter in the Bible. Why do you think he would say this?

## DIFFERENCE

7. Gomer was purchased from the slave auction block by Hosea. How does that parallel God’s redemption of sinners? How should that make us respond?

## APPLICATION

8. Is there someone who has hurt you deeply that you have not forgiven? How does understanding how much we have hurt God and how much God has forgiven us help you to forgive that person?

## FOR REFLECTION

Eph 4:32-5:2

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us

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