

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Speak the Truth

Hosea 4:1

INTRODUCTION: Welcome! Braved the weather, survived the holiday. Welcome back!

Still glad to have those worshipping online with us.

Lifecchange groups

Moving Forward! With care. Trying to maintain social distancing.

This morning, as we examine the faithfulness of God, we look at it displayed in the life of a man not as well recognized as many we have looked at over the last several weeks, like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego.

Today we look at God's faithfulness to the prophet Hosea, who preached the Word of the Lord to the northern Kingdom of Israel during the days of their apostasy and rebellion against God. While I do not preach or even believe that the United States is the new Israel, yet I tell you the way many people of our country are acting and living today is very much akin to the way the Israelites were living in Hosea's day.

And God gave the prophet the word to clearly identify the problem.

- What was causing people to disregard the commandments of God?
- What caused them to refuse to worship Him?
- What caused them to follow the leadership of demons impersonating their own idols and false gods?

God through His prophet told them clearly.

GOD WAS FAITHFUL TO SPEAK THE TRUTH TO ISRAEL THROUGH HOSEA.

Hosea 4:1 NKJV

Hear the word of the LORD,

You children of Israel,

For the LORD *brings* a charge against the inhabitants of the land:

"There is no truth or mercy

Or knowledge of God in the land.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW GOD.

What do people not know about God? Well, let's start at the beginning, like at Genesis 1 and 2.

Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- **People do not know that God is Creator.**

No one believes that this gymnasium could be produced by the chance interaction of molecules over the supposed 13.7 billion years of the universe, but billions of people believe that they themselves were thus assembled by the mindless, purposeless, random process of evolution even though their very own mind and body are infinitely more complex than even the most beautifully crafted building could be.

This building cannot move itself. It cannot speak. It cannot think. It cannot reproduce. As limited as this simple building is, we know someone made it. It did not happen by chance.

Each of us can move ourselves, make sounds, enter into conversation, even reproduce another human being at least partially like ourselves; and we can do a thousand other things that are complex and require intelligence.

It is the epitome of foolishness to acknowledge that this building has to be made, but that a human being can come about by random chance.

But as the Scripture says, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

But that is not all that has been revealed that is ignored and therefore is not known.

Genesis 1:26 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

- **People do not know that life is sacred.**

Folks, initially in the peaceful protests that broke out over the death of George Floyd, many people of many races protested peacefully his wrongful death.

As peaceful protests were replaced by mobs looting, burning, assaulting, and killing, more and more signs also appeared saying "Black Lives Matter."

Now brothers and sisters that thought, that sentiment, that conviction is one I can and do strongly affirm. All lives matter to God. Every single one and it does not matter the color of the skin in which the life is wrapped.

But sadly, that very true statement has been stolen by people to whom life does not matter at all. They assault and murder people who are black, white, brown, yellow, and red. This holiday weekend, in Chicago, 67 people were shot, 13 of them killed, including a 14 year old

boy and a 7 year old girl. They do not care. They may carry the sign, but no life matters to them except maybe their own.

And many of the people who support these who are committing their horrific acts of lawlessness and violence against their fellow human beings, do not care about all the babies being murdered in their mother's wombs. They support the killing of these unborn children, no matter what color they are.

Folks, the truth of God's Word is black lives do matter. Every life matters. We should care when a black man is unjustly killed. But let us not join in with those who steal a slogan but do not hold to the principle it expresses. God is pro-life and we should be too. Black, white, brown, yellow, and red. Every life is given by God and is sacred.

But still that is not all

Genesis 2:22, 24 NKJV 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- **People do not know that God instituted, defined, and established marriage.**

In Isaiah 5, you will find these words.

Isaiah 5:20 NKJV

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

When people start calling evil good and good evil it is definitive proof that they do not know God. This is not what I say. This is not just what Isaiah says. This is what God says, and He says it again and exceedingly plainly in Romans chapter 1.

Romans 1:18–28 NKJV

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. ...

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ...

Many Americans no longer believe in God as Creator, so therefore they do not believe in God as law giver or as the arbitrator of right and wrong. So God has given them up to a debased mind, and they call that which is evil, like homosexuality, good. They call that which is good, the exclusivity of marriage for one man and one woman, evil, because they do not know God!

Furthermore,

- **People do not know that anything contrary to the commands of God is sin.**

Genesis 2:16–17 NKJV 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

People do not know that sin brings death. Death is separation.

- Physical death is the separation of the body from the soul and the spirit.
- Death of the soul is the separation of the mind from the truths of God and separation of the feelings from the affections of God.
- Death of the spirit is separation of the spirit from God for eternity in hell.
- People do not know God. Many people know something of their own construct of God, but what they know is not the God of the Bible who alone is the One True and Living God.

When people say, “Well, my god does this or my god would not do that, and they describe a god contrary to the One revealed in Scripture,

THEY DO NOT KNOW GOD!

Just as surely as men and women can construct a god of their own liking with their hands from wood or stone, so also men and women can and do construct gods of their own liking in their minds.

But thinking something or even believing something with all sincerity does not make it so.

I can think or believe I have a hundred thousand dollars in my bank account, but I cannot spend it. As soon as I try to go beyond what is actually in the bank, my debit card quits working and I get all kinds of nasty little notes from my financial institution.

Folks, you can construct whatever kind of god you desire in your mind, but

- he or she will not answer your prayers
- will not transform your life for good

- cannot and will not help you with life's struggles
- and will not bring you to heaven when you die!
- In addition to the problem of not knowing about the One True and Living God who has revealed Himself in the Scriptures, there is also the problem of knowing about this God but not knowing Him personally.

I know a lot about President Trump.

I do not know him personally.

You can know about God. What you know may be perfectly correct, and your knowledge of Him even sufficient, **and still not know Him personally.**

I am confident there are people in this place today like this.

- You know about God.
- The God you know about is not made up in your mind, He is the God of the Bible.
- But you do not know Him personally!
- **The only way to come to know God personally is through faith in Jesus Christ His Son.**

John 14:6–7 NKJV 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Folks, we must understand the problem of why some people are acting as they do and living as they do that is so contrary to what we know and do.

They don't know God. Most know almost nothing about Him, but even those who do, do not know Him personally. When 3 men got out of a car and shot toward a party early yesterday evening, and later last night when 4 men walked up to a group gathered on a street and started shooting, I guarantee that none of those men know God personally.

The only solution is the gospel. God was and is faithful to speak the truth.

We must be faithful to speak the truth, and always with love.

But folks the gospel is love. John 3:16!

The only way for the problem to genuinely be solved is for people to come to know Christ.

My friend, if we all followed Christ faithfully,

There would be no racism, no hatred, no assault, no murder.

For those who know Christ, our job in what is happening is to share the gospel. And let us not say, "I don't know anybody doing all this kind of stuff, so how can I share the gospel with them?"

Share with who you do know. Who knows who they know? Pray for God to send somebody to share with all who need to hear.

CONCLUSION: May I conclude this morning by helping those of you who are here today, but you do not know God. Maybe you do not know the truth about Him, or maybe you know some or much of that truth, but you do not know Him personally. You have no relationship with Him, so He is not transforming your life, and if you died right now you would fall straight into hell.

1. God created you. He not only created humanity, He created you.
2. God knows you. You may not know Him but He knows you. He knows your name. The hairs on your head are numbered. For me, you may think that's no big deal, but for you that is something! Even your mama doesn't know that about you. God knows you.
3. And even though God knows everything about you, God still loves you.
4. God wants to have a relationship and fellowship with you. That is why He made you. And He wants to have that fellowship with you for eternity.
5. But sin in your life keeps that from happening. Sin separates you from God because God is holy.
6. But God loved you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin and to purchase the gift of eternal life.
7. He offers that gift to you right here and right now.
8. You can receive that gift by believing that Jesus, God's Son, died for you upon the cross and rose from the dead and inviting Him to become the Lord and Master of your life.

Romans 10:9 NKJV ... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

9. When you trust Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you become the child of God. You are adopted into God's family. Then He not only knows you as His child. You know God as your Father.

If you want that to happen in your life today, you can pray right now.