

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

HOSEA PLEADS WITH ISRAEL

International Sunday School Lesson for June 20th, 1954.

Memory Selection: "I desire goodness, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt-offerings." — Hosea 6:6.

Lesson Text: Hosea 6:1-11.

Not many years after Amos appeared as prophet at Bethel, a prophet arose in the Northern Kingdom. This was the prophet Hosea, about whom we know very little. While the actual location of Hosea's home is not known, local tradition tells us that one of the most commanding heights of southern Gilead bears the name of Jebel Osha, which is the Arabic for "Mountains of Hosea." Here, tradition declares, the prophet Hosea was buried and here the Bedouin still sacrifice sheep in his honor. It is significant that Hosea alone of all the prophets makes frequent mention of the land of Gilead, and reveals an intimate knowledge of its history.

All that is known of the life and character of Hosea is based on the statement to be found in the book which bears his name. He was the son of an unknown man—Beeri. We have no knowledge of his home, his education or his life as a youth.

We are told, however, that he married a woman named Gomer and her betrayal of his love and devotion are a principal factor in his mission and message as a prophet. It is a love story — albeit a rather tragic one — that lies behind Hosea's public ministry.

We are told that it was through his marriage with Gomer that Hosea first realized the truth that he was commissioned to preach. Hosea stands among the great religious leaders of the Hebrew people as one who speaks through a deep and real personal experience.

Looking in one the ruins of his own home, Hosea looked out to the house of Israel and realized the similarity of the two. He saw sin and dishonor and wrong and realized how the heart of God must have been pained, and how divine Love could brood over the wrong doer. He seemed to identify himself with God's very thoughts, so that he could speak the message that God wanted to say to the Israelites.

Go back, now, and read over the Scripture passage given for our consideration today. Can't you see the very pleading heart of a lover for his beloved? He pleads, "Come and let us return unto Jehovah . . ." Then, he displays God's forgiving heart that even though the wicked must be punished, God will restore them to his love.

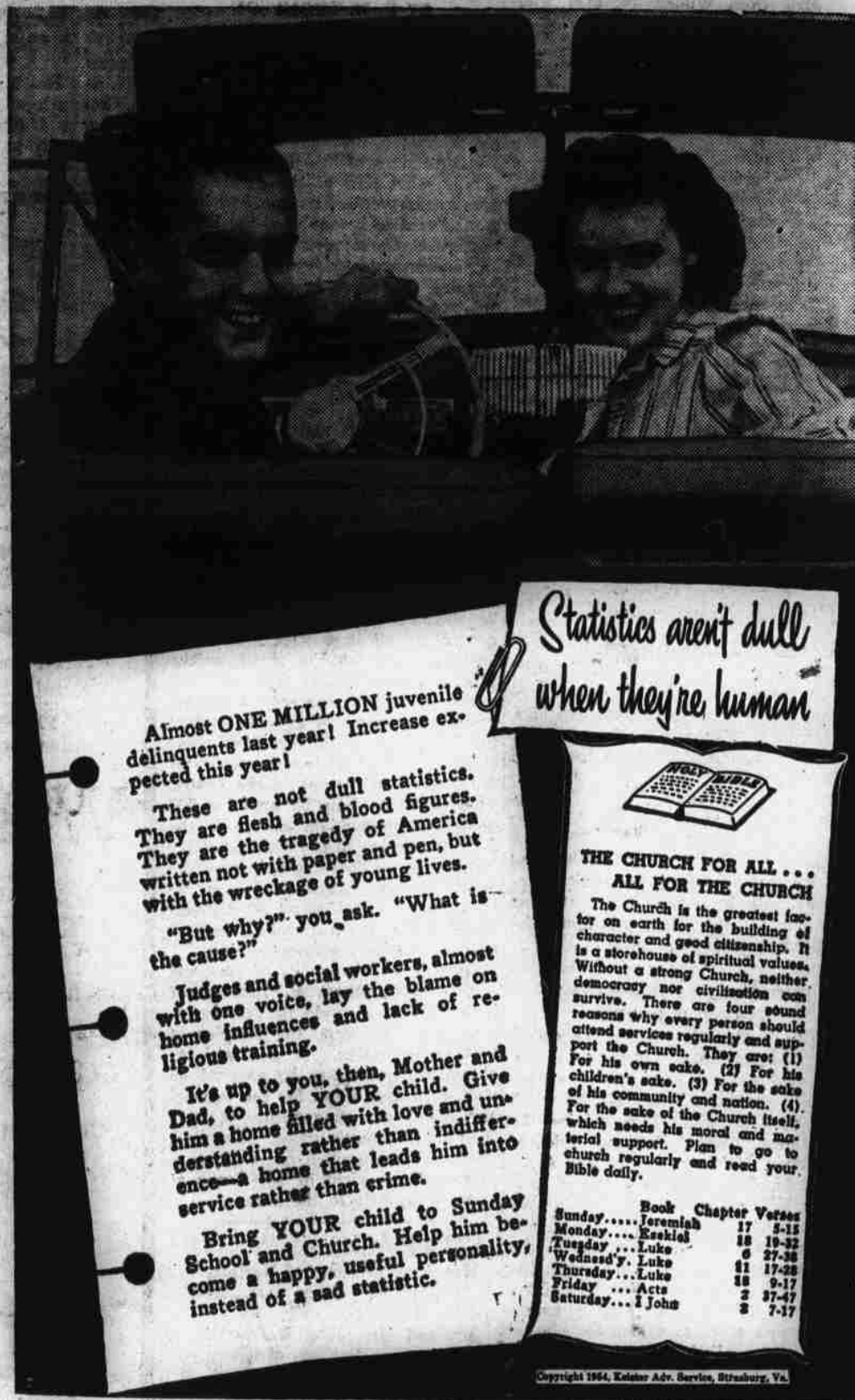
Israel's status was in an exceedingly terrible state, as a hurried reading of the book of Hosea will reveal. Swearing, lying, stealing, and adultery are specifically referred to, and it was said that "no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God" was "in the land." Priests were as bad as the people. Religious ceremonies were degraded, the people in their ignorance of God confused some of the pagan and immoral rites with worship of Jehovah.

W. H. Thompson, in "Practical Illustrations," says: "He (Hosea) found evil-doing in the ordinary walks of life as well as in the falsity of religious practices. While it is not true that religious rites encourage immoral conduct, as in the prophet's day, are there not other features of modern life which have that tendency? It has been charged that this is the effect of some of the amusements and fashions of our times. What would you say of easy divorce and its results? Is this social evil promoted by such factors in the so-called good society? Are there not, on the other hand, notable forces at work for the purification of society, and the strengthening of the home upon the foundations of purity and love?"

Hosea called upon Israel to repent of her sins and Jehovah would forgive them. But, he warned, the repentance must be real and sincere. Gypsy Smith, the great evangelist, once explained the meaning of repentance. He said, "Repentance is turning from sin to God. That is repentance — 'from' to. It is putting your hand on your heart and getting rid of the thing that has been your curse, the enslaving passion, the captivity, the predominating force in your existence, the blackening thing . . . of your soul and dragging it out and saying, 'There, Lord, that is it, and I will die before I commit it again. I turn from it now and forever'."

We should seek to know the will of God, but knowledge of right is not enough. Unless we put it into practice in every day living, the knowledge will be worse than ignorance. The prophet told Israel to "sow righteousness" and "reap kindness." Hosea had learned to know the love of God through the sad experience in his own home. He put that love to work — sowed love in his own home.

(Continued on Page Six)



Almost ONE MILLION juvenile delinquents last year! Increase expected this year!

These are not dull statistics. They are flesh and blood figures. They are the tragedy of America written not with paper and pen, but with the wreckage of young lives.

"But why?" you ask. "What is the cause?"

Judges and social workers, almost with one voice, lay the blame on home influences and lack of religious training.

It's up to you, then, Mother and Dad, to help YOUR child. Give him a home filled with love and understanding rather than indifference—a home that leads him into service rather than crime.

Bring YOUR child to Sunday School and Church. Help him become a happy, useful personality, instead of a sad statistic.

Statistics aren't dull when they're human

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his community and nation. (3) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Jeremiah	17 5-15
Monday	Ezekiel	18 19-23
Tuesday	Luke	6 27-38
Wednesday	Luke	11 17-28
Thursday	Luke	12 9-17
Friday	Acts	2 27-47
Saturday	I John	2 7-17

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Perquimans Church Services

HERTFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
James O. Mattox, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Evening Worship, 8 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Wednesday at 8 P. M.

BETHLEHEM CHURCH OF CHRIST
Joe Erickhouse, Pastor
First Sunday
11 A. M. and 8 P. M.

BURGESS BAPTIST CHURCH
W. E. Thompson, Pastor
Church services second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
Sunday School at 10:00 A. M.

PERQUIMANS CHARGE CHURCHES
H. M. Jamieson, Pastor
First Sunday:
New Hope Church, 11:00 A. M.
Oak Grove Church, 7:00 P. M.
Second Sunday
Winfall Church, 11:00 A. M.
Cedar Grove Church, 10 A. M.
Woodland Church, 7:00 P. M.
Third Sunday
Oak Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
New Hope Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fourth Sunday
Cedar Grove Church, 11:00 A. M.
Woodland Church, 10 A. M.
Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.
Fifth Sunday
Woodland Church, 11:00 A. M.
Prayer Meeting each Wednesday at Winfall Church, 7:00 P. M.

ANDERSON'S METHODIST CHURCH
C. H. Beale, Pastor
Church School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A. M., second and fourth Sundays.

WOODVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Hugh Ross Williams, Pastor
Church Services on second and fourth Sundays at 11 A. M.
First and Third Sundays at 7:45 P. M.
Sunday School 9:45 A. M.

UP RIVER FRIENDS CHURCH
James Rahenkamp, Pastor
Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.
Church Services 11 A. M., - 7:30 P. M.
Christian Endeavor, 6:30 P. M.
Prayer Service, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. J. D. Stoner, Pastor
Sunday School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Evening service 8 P. M.

PINEY WOODS FRIENDS CHURCH
D. Virgil Pike, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M.
Morning Worship 11 A. M.
Young People's Meeting 7 P. M.

WHITEVILLE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Caleb Goodwin, Jr., Pastor
Sunday School, 10:30 A. M., every Sunday except third Sunday.
Church services every third Sunday at 3 P. M.

HERTFORD METHODIST CHURCH
A. L. Chaplin, Pastor
Church School, 9:45 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Youth Fellowship, 6:45 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 P. M.
Mid-week Fellowship, Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

BAGLEY SWAMP PILGRIM
Coy S. Saunders, Pastor
Sunday School, 10:00 A. M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 o'clock.
Young People's Meeting, 6:30 P. M.
Evening Worship, 7:30 o'clock.
Mid-week Services, Thursday at 7:30 P. M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Charles F. Wulf, Rector.
9:45 A. M., Church School, every Sunday.
9:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 1st Sunday.
8:30 A. M., Holy Communion, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
11:00 A. M., Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday.
11:00 A. M., Morning Prayer, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays.
10:00 A. M., Holy Communion, Fridays and Saints' Days.

BEREA CHURCH OF CHRIST
Walker Perry, Pastor
2nd and 4th Sunday at 10:30 A. M.
Morning worship on first and third Sundays at 11 A. M.
Evening worship first and third Sundays at 7:30 P. M.

CHAPPELL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Vivian Evans, Pastor
Sunday School every first and third Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Evening service at 11:15 A. M.
Sunday School every second and fourth Sunday at 11:00 A. M.

Go To Church Your Church Any Church But Do Go