Loving Raisin Cakes

Tony Mauck · Hosea 3:1

INTRODUCTION

- Hosea's marriage is a pitiful parallel of Israel's relationship to God.
- All of the newer translations refer to these raisin cakes or these pressed cakes of dried grapes or dried fruit, which were offered to idols.
- And so this reference in Hosea chapter 3 and verse 1 to these cakes of raisins that they really love, speak of their spiritual unfaithfulness to Jehovah.

1 The Trinkets of Spiritual Adultery

Ephesians 4; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 6:10

- If there is something that is interfering with that relationship between you and God today, it's your personal raisin cake.
- However much value we attach to it, if that thing is keeping you between a right relationship with God, if that thing is pulling you away from him, rest assured, it's just a trinket. It's cheap.
- Whatever the trinket of spiritual adultery is, we need to understand that it is absolutely outrageous behavior.
- The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil. And those who pursue it pierce themselves through with many a pain.
- When we talk about the trinkets of spiritual adultery, it is the choice of pottage over pearl.

2 The Short-Term Treasure of Such Choices

Jeremiah 5:30–31; Philippians 3:7–8

- The treasure, no matter what value we ascribe to it, is short-lived.
- Whenever we sin, the now is exalted above the eternal every time. But both the pleasure and the reward is short term. It's consumed and enjoyed, and then it's gone.
- An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land, the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority, and my people love it so.
- What are you going to do at the end of it? You choose the dot above the eternal. But where's that going to take you?
- The problem is we do not see the raisin cakes for what they are. Worthless, empty, short-term, and destructive.
- I count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord.

3 Called Into His Marvelous Light

1 Peter 2:9–10; Hosea 2:23; Colossians 1:13

- If I might summarize that in a few words, that is that we be godly. God focused in our life, holy in our thought and behavior.
- You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.
- You were once not a people, but now you are the people of God. You had once not obtained mercy, but now you have obtained mercy.
- If you are a believer in Christ who have been baptized into Christ, you have been called into God's marvelous light.
- Our decisions in this place and this time to live for the Lord has an impact that will last throughout the end of time. That's legacy.
- When you choose the raisin cakes, they just last you for a few hours.

4 The Warning: Are You Faithful Right Now?

Hosea 3:1

- Because you were alive in the past does not necessarily mean that you were alive in the present.
- Folks are often not perceptive that something has gone tragically awry in their relationship with God.
- The question is not, were you faithful in the past, but are you faithful right now?
- The question is not, are you still in right standing with the church? The greater question is, does God consider you loyal to Him?
- That's why we're warned let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- Loving God and loving His people and loving righteousness is far better and infinitely more rewarding than raisin cakes.

THE CHALLENGE

Whatever it is that you're clinging to and holding on to, it is a raisin cake. And you need to properly assess its value in relation to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as your Lord.

MY NOTES