Once You Were Not A People

Jesse LaRue · Hosea 2:21–23

INTRODUCTION

- Throughout the Old Testament, we read stories of God's amazing mercy and love towards the people of Israel and Judah. His own special people.
- And yet here in Hosea, God is finally saying to the Jews, after all of their rebellion, you are no longer my people.

1 No Mercy and Not My People

Hosea 2:21–23

- God tells Hosea the prophet to go out and to marry a harlot, a prostitute, to take her as his wife.
- It's incredibly symbolic of what the people of Israel were doing to God. Committing adultery against him by forsaking the Lord and serving other gods.
- Call his name Lo Ami, or not my people, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.
- And I will have mercy on no mercy. And I will say to not my people, you are my people. And he shall say, You are my God.
- Even though he gets fed up with us, he is still always willing to take us back and to have mercy.

2 Once You Were Not a People

1 Peter 2:9–10

- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.
- Once you were not a people. But now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- It's not just that we have God. It's that he has us. We are his.
- We have been granted this opportunity to be grafted into his family, to be adopted as sons and heirs, although we were not worthy.

3 The Kindness and the Severity of God

Romans 11:1–10; Romans 11:15–22

- We mustn't forget that the gospel is for all, including the Jews, that it was sent first to the Jews, but the majority of them rejected it.
- Although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others, and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree. Do not be arrogant toward the branches.
- For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.
- Note then the kindness and the severity of God. Severity towards those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you too will be cut off.

4 Abstain From the Passions of the Flesh

1 Peter 2:9–12

- What is the result then? How should we respond to being part of that family?
- Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

5 God's Standards, Not Our Own

1 John 2:15–17; Isaiah 5:20; Ephesians 5:11

- Brethren, we have to get back to God's standards, not our own. Because God's standards don't change. Though the world's may.
- Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness.
- We who were once not a people, who once had not received mercy, but now have received mercy are to take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.
- We are a people professing purity and holiness. And we need to think seriously and be very careful about that which we take part in and approve of.

6 Do Not Be Conformed, but Be Transformed

1 Peter 1:14–19; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Peter 2:19–23

- As he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct. Since it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.
- We cannot allow the world to change our definitions of what is right and wrong. But stick to the unchanging standards of Almighty God.
- We are called to be different, to suffer for being so, and to follow the example of Christ.
- Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

THE CHALLENGE

Let us never cease to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light.

MY NOTES