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**Marriage is serious stuff...**

PostSecret examples

**Marriage is serious stuff...**



Husbands, love your wives, **just as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.  
Eph. 5: 25-27

**Marriage is serious stuff...**

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only **what is helpful for building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.** Eph. 4:29-32

**Marriage is serious stuff...**

Myth (Merriam Webster)

*a* : a usually traditional story of ostensibly historical events that serves to **unfold part of the world view** of a people or explain a practice, belief, or natural phenomenon

*b* : a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone; *especially* : **one embodying the ideals** and institutions of a society or segment of society

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Verse

Spiritual message

Marital message

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the Lord." So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Hosea 1: 2-3

## **Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Spiritual message:

1. God chooses us in the midst of our sin.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Marital message:

1. We choose a spouse in the midst of their sin.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel." Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah, for I will no longer show love to the house of Israel, that I should at all forgive them. Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the Lord their God." After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. Then the Lord said, "Call him Lo-Ammi, for you are not my people, and I am not your God Hosea 1: 3-8

## Hosea: A Myth of Marriage



Spiritual message:

1. God chooses us in the midst of our sin.
2. God is more concerned with spiritual issues in our lives than our temporal happiness.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Marital message:

1. We choose a spouse in the midst of their sin.
2. You really don't know why God gave you your spouse; his purpose is often hidden...nevertheless real. It may have nothing to do with temporal happiness.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

"Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts. Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst." Hosea 2: 1-3

## **Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Spiritual message:

1. God chooses us in the midst of our sin.
2. God is more concerned with spiritual issues in our lives than our temporal happiness.
3. When we stray from God it is like adultery. God is angry and contemplates all kinds of ways to thwart our plans.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**



Hosea 2: 1-13 shows all the ways God contemplates dealing with Israel out of anger and destruction.

Hosea 2: 14-23 shows all the ways God contemplates restoring Israel.

While the anger is real, the compassion wins out. God initiates to allure (v. 14) until Israel finally says, "You are my God" (v. 23)

## **Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Spiritual message:

4. God's is just and loving, but loving is the overriding characteristic.

- He initiates
- He allures
- He envisions the way it will be
- Blessings are anticipated

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Marital message:

4. While you are justified to be angry, **let love** be the overriding characteristic. Allure your spouse. Take the **initiative** first to reach out in the midst of conflict. **Envision** the end result.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**



The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."  
So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will live with you."  
Hos. 3:1-2

## Hosea: A Myth of Marriage

Spiritual message:

4. God's is just and loving, but loving is the overriding characteristic.
5. God reaches out to us in our sin... over and over again. He also has expectations of better behavior.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Marital message:

4. While you are justified to be angry, **let love** be the overriding characteristic. Allure your spouse. Take the **initiative** first to reach out in the midst of conflict. **Envision** the end result.
5. Be the first to forgive. Forgiveness is not boundary-less. It's ok to have expectations of changed behavior in the midst of reaching out.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and  
out of Egypt I called my son. Hosea 11:1  
My heart is changed within me; all my  
compassion is aroused. I will not carry  
out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and  
devastate. Hos. 11: 8-9

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Spiritual message:

4. God's is just and loving, but loving is the overriding characteristic.
5. God reaches out to us in our sin... over and over again. He also has expectations of better behavior.
6. God remembers the good and vows turns his heart to a soft side; His compassion is aroused.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

Marital message:

6. Recall the early years and the times you were close and intimate. Arouse your compassion.

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**

What is your myth?

What is your vision of what marriage is supposed to be?

**Hosea: A Myth of Marriage**