

The Cost of Misplaced Trust

NOTE GUIDE

SERIES GOAL

That together we would be invited to honestly examine our own hearts, recognize the idols and false hopes we are prone to trust, and grow more deeply thankful for the grace of God that redeems, restores, and leads us into fruitful life with Him.

THIS WEEK'S ANCHOR QUESTION

When fear pushes us toward alliances, how do we remain faithful to God and to our calling?

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 7:8-16

DATE

10/25/26

SPEAKER

Pastor Chris Lenhart

Our partnerships shape us. (8-10)

Hosea's Prophetic Images of Misplaced Trust:

Fear sends us toward power and security. (11-13)

See also: Deut. 17:16, Psalm 20:7, 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1, Matt. 4:8-10

Changing allies is not the same as returning to God. (14-16)

Hosea's warning:

Return: Keeping our trust in God.

3 ways Hosea 7:8-16 can come to life outside CMBC's building.

- 1) Take inventory of what is _____ us.
- 2) Name what we are asking to _____ us, _____ us, or grow our _____.
- 3) Take the next _____ step.

HOLDING TENSION: questions, convictions, prompts for further study...

DIG DEEPER



The Cost of Misplaced Trust

DIG DEEPER

A guide for personal or family devotion time, or small group or ABF

Pray	Ask Jesus to guide your time. Pray through requests for family, church, community, career, friends, etc.
Focus	When fear pushes us toward alliances, how do we remain faithful to God and to our calling?
Read	Hosea 7:8-16 (Read in 2 different versions)
Reflect or Discuss	1. “What is this partnership forming in us?” – Which group, relationship, or commitment is shaping what we value? What might it be teaching us to praise, tolerate, or dismiss? 2. “The gray hairs are already there. The cost is showing, but Israel keeps making its arrangements.” – What warning signs might we be overlooking because a partnership or pursuit still seems useful? 3. “Do our partnerships or commitments ask us to surrender truth, excuse injustice, or treat people as tools or objects for gaining influence?” – Where might the promise of influence, power, or security make us hesitate to act faithfully? 4. “Both passages ask what our commitments or partnerships are doing to our worship and witness.” [Hosea 7:8-16 & 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1] – What commitment could test our allegiance to Jesus? What might faithfulness require of us in that situation? 5. “Israel keeps shifting and reaching, but it is not returning to the Lord.” – Where might we be changing tactics or reaching for quick relief without bringing our fears and needs honestly to the Lord?
Apply	Notice what is forming us: Name one group, workplace, relationship, partnership, or public voice that is shaping my thinking. Write down who or what it is teaching me to value, and who or what it is making easier for me to excuse or ignore. Name what we are asking to save us, protect us, or grow our influence: When I feel afraid, uncertain, or unseen, where is my first reach for security, approval, or recognition? Bring my fear, uncertainty, and/or loneliness to the Lord, and wait on His word for direction. Choose one faithful action this week: tell the truth in love, set a boundary, build a bridge, apologize, refuse to participate in demeaning rhetoric or behavior, serve another without seeking applause or recognition.