Hosea – God's Relentless Love

A Love that will not Let Go

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
What draws us back to God when we have turned away?

SCRIPTURE
Hosea 11:1-11

DATE
11/8/26

SPEAKER
Pastor Chris Lenhart

The love that carried us. (1-4)
See also: Exodus 4:22-23, 12-14, Deuteronomy 1:31, 8:11-18, Ephesians 2:8-10

The love that tells the truth. (5-7)
See also: Hosea 4:1-2, 10:13-15, Romans 6:16-23, Hebrews 12:5-11

The love rooted in who God is. (8-9)
See also: Dt. 29:23, 2 Sam. 18:33, Matt. 23:37, Luke 19:41-44, Rom. 11:17-20, 25-29, Matt. 2:13-15, 19-21, Rom. 5:18-19, Rom. 3:25-26; 8:3, Jn. 3:16, 10:17-18, 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18, 1 Cor. 15:3-4

The love that calls us home. (10-11)
See also: Hosea 5:14, 13:7-8, Luke 15:11-32

Return: One Faithful Step at a Time.
See also: Rom. 2:4, James 5:16, Eph. 4:31-32, 1 Jn. 4:19

1) Remember the hands that carried us.
2) Name the place(s) we are resisting Him
3) Let received mercy shape the way we treat someone else.

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

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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	What draws us back to God when we have turned away?
Read	Hosea 11:1-11 (Read in two different versions)
Reflect or Discuss	1. "There were always hands outside the frame." – *Looking back, where can we now recognize God's care that we did not notice at the time? Who has He used to carry, guide, or provide for us?* 2. "There is a difference between wanting God to change our circumstances and wanting God to change us." – *Where might we be asking God for relief while resisting His correction? What would an honest response to Him look like?* 3. "His compassion is not a reward for our improvement." – *When we fail, do we tend to hide, try to earn our way back, or turn toward God? How does His mercy in Jesus help us confess honestly?* 4. "The Father who remembers their [Israel's] first steps also promises their homecoming." – *What does God's promise to restore Israel reveal about His faithfulness? How might that shape our prayers for the Jewish people and for those we love who have wandered?* 5. "Mercy can include firm boundaries. Trust may take time to rebuild. But we can surrender the desire to make another person suffer." – *Where do we find it difficult to hold honesty and gentleness together? What might mercy look like in that relationship without minimizing the harm?*
Apply	**Remember the hands that carried us:** Spend five quiet minutes this week with Hosea 11:1-4. Name one specific way God has cared for us and thank Him. If someone helped us experience that care, consider thanking them too. **Name one place we are resisting Him:** Identify one habit, attitude, or put off act of obedience. Confess it without making excuses and take one concrete step toward change. Invite a trustworthy believer to walk alongside where help is needed. **Let received mercy shape how we treat someone else:** Choose one relationship in which to practice both truth and tenderness. Take one step: speak honestly without punishing or condemning, cease using a past offense or failure as leverage, maintain a necessary boundary without retaliation.