

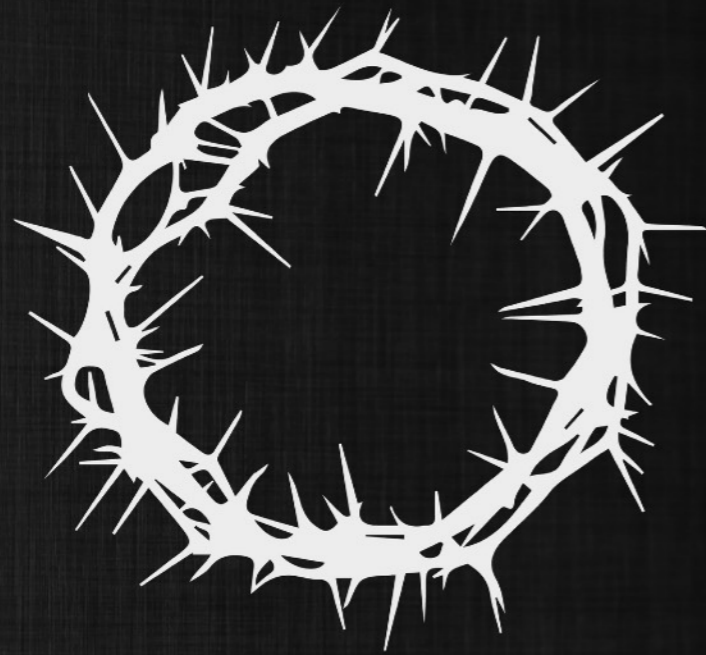
HOSEA
FIERCE
Love

SCANDALOUS | STUBBORN | INTOLERANT | TENACIOUS | RELENTLESS

Baptism Meeting

TODAY after the service

**Baptisms will take place on
Easter Sunday**



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

APRIL 14 AT 6:30 AM



**EASTER
SUNDAY**

APRIL 16 AT 10:15 AM

- Who are you trying to fool?
- We spend a lot of time on surface issues
- The overt story in Hosea is Hosea/Gomer = God/Israel–Jesus/Believers
 - The undercurrent is the enemy consistently appealing to the worst parts of me
- Both the enemy and God are after my heart, my affections



Hosea 9:2

2 Threshing floor and wine press will not feed them,
And the new wine will fail them.

- Worshiped on the threshing floors believing it would increase the harvest
- Harlots because they loved the benefits/prosperity they thought it would bring them



Hosea 9:7-9

7 The days of punishment have come,
The days of retribution have come;
Let Israel know this!
The prophet is a fool,
The inspired man is demented,
Because of the grossness of your iniquity,
And because your hostility is so great.

8 Ephraim was a watchman with my God, a prophet;
Yet the snare of a bird catcher is in all his ways,
And there is only hostility in the house of his God.

9 They have gone deep in depravity
As in the days of Gibeah;
He will remember their iniquity,
He will punish their sins.

- Hosea corrects them and they thought he was crazy
 - They believed that all prosperity was a sign of God's blessing; no need for repentance
- We suffer from the same confusion between possessions and God's blessings
- There was a duplicity in them—talking about God's blessings but carrying around ugly rebellion inside (Gibeah—Judges 19)



Hosea 9:9-12

9 They have gone deep in depravity
As in the days of Gibeah;
He will remember their iniquity,
He will punish their sins.

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness;
I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season.
But they came to Baal-peor and devoted themselves to shame,
And they became as detestable as that which they loved.

11 As for Ephraim, their glory will fly away like a bird—
No birth, no pregnancy and no conception!

12 Though they bring up their children,
Yet I will bereave them until not a man is left.
Yes, woe to them indeed when I depart from them!

- God has memories of sweeter times with us; there's a sadness here
- God is not dispassionate about us; he fiercely loves us!
- How had their relationship changed?
 - Baal Peor—Numbers 25; worshiping a god of filth and refuse
- We can become like the filthy things we worship OR
- We can understand that EVERYTHING I have is waste without Jesus (Philippians 3)
 - We become like the thing we worship (Romans 1)



Hosea 9:14-17

14 Give them, O Lord—what will You give?
Give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts.

15 All their evil is at Gilgal;
Indeed, I came to hate them there!
Because of the wickedness of their deeds
I will drive them out of My house!

I will love them no more;
All their princes are rebels.

16 Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up,
They will bear no fruit.

Even though they bear children,
I will slay the precious ones of their womb.

17 My God will cast them away
Because they have not listened to Him;
And they will be wanderers among the nations.

- God will stop giving them children—why?
 - They had been worshiping gods to be more fertile
 - God is the only one who brings these things!
 - They were focused on the wrong things and worshiping the wrong things
- What's God doing to save them?
 - Hosea = Jesus



Hosea 9:1

1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations!
For you have played the harlot, forsaking your God.
You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor.

Hosea 9:10

10 I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness;
I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season.
But they came to Baal-peor and devoted themselves to [a]shame,
And they became as detestable as that which they loved.

- So much of our problems have to do with what we love
- Americans love a lot of things!
- What is a love/passion?
 - A desire for the absent good and the hope of obtaining it
- When we desire idols, we are loving false gods
- We could also talk about love in terms of values; what do you value most?



- "Love the Lord" in Deuteronomy and 3 gospels; we can control and influence what we love
- Ephesians 3:16-19; stir up a deep love of the Lord
 - Remember
 - Seek
 - Surround
 - Recognize
 - Thank
 - Believe
 - Destroy



- We aren't working to love Jesus in a spiritual vacuum
 - Satan wants to blackmail you with your sin and idolatry
 - And he's right—we are prostitutes
- But he's dead wrong on what's most important—we stand risen in Christ!
- Our idolatry is covered by Christ's righteousness!





OFFERINGS

Giving back
to God!



UPCOMING

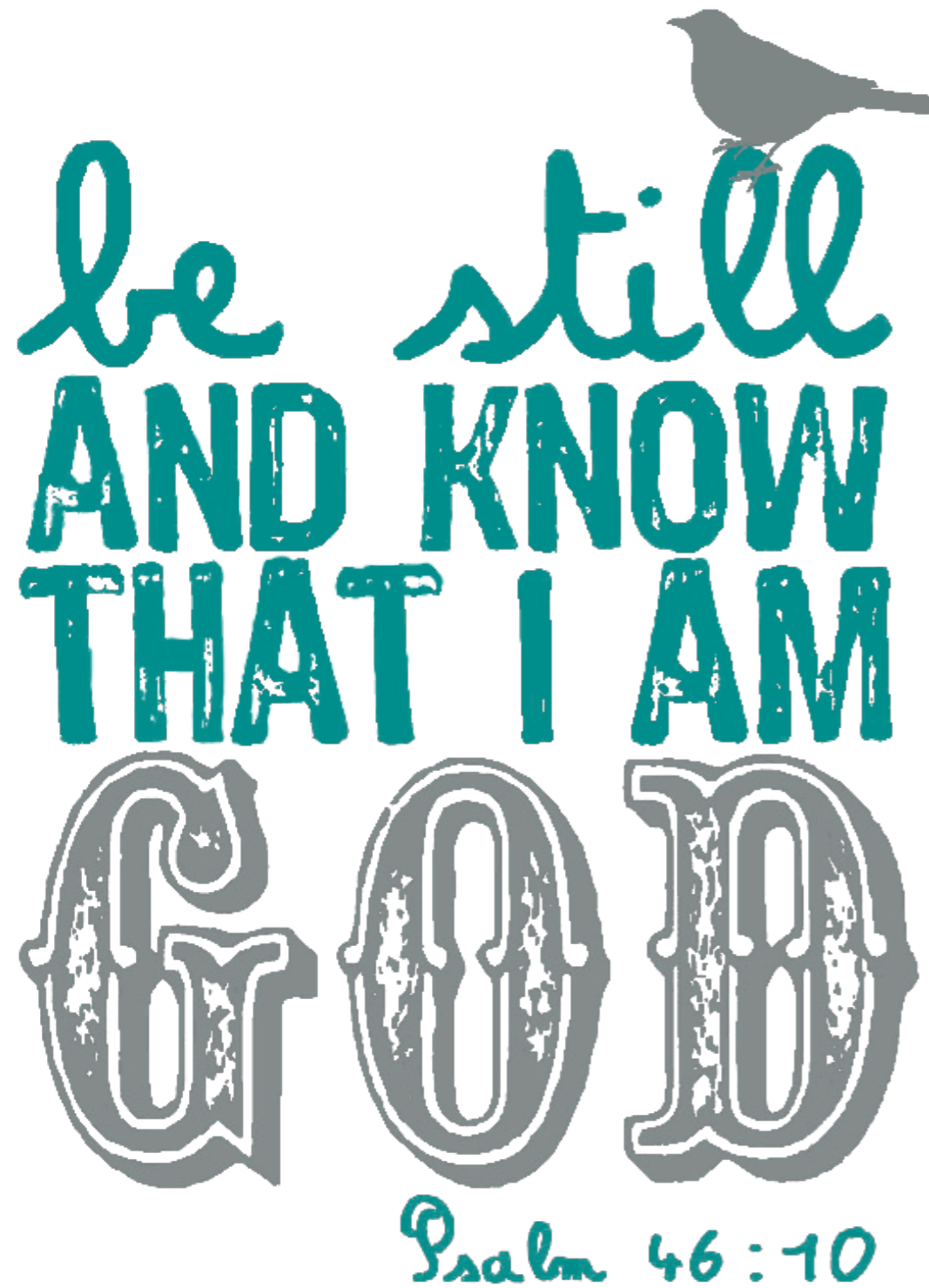
Mark your
calendars!



**JENNY LANE
EASTER
CELEBRATION**

April 15th at 10:00 AM

**Arrive at 9:30 if you are
serving!**



Be Still

Ladies' Day Retreat

April 22nd

9 AM–5 PM



Covenant Membership Class

April 23rd & 30th

9:00–10:00 AM

In Conference Room