

Sermon Notes

Follow the Lord's Ways and Let Him Give What He Wants

Hosea 11:12-13:16

by Christian Sanich, 5/16/2021

There may be Q&A at the end as time allows. So note your questions.

12:1-8 The people of Israel were trying to prosper by doing things against the Lord's ways. They were called to return to God, treat people the right ways, and wait for their God continually.

The Lord's people shouldn't be willing to do things against the Lord's morals to prosper ourselves.

Jacob as an example:

- he strived to get ahead
- he tricked his dad into giving him his brother's blessing
- he wrestled with God, trying to get a blessing from the Lord

Jacob, at least eventually, sought his blessing from the Lord. The Lord did bless him.

Most of us want to be prosperous. We want to be blessed. We need to be careful about seeking that in our own ways, specifically doing things against the morality our God teaches us. Instead, we need to behave the ways the Lord wants us to behave. Treat people the ways the Lord wants us to treat people. Allow the Lord to give us what He wants to give us, in His time, and be satisfied.

Israel thought they could become rich and get away with the sinful ways they had gone about their business. But the Lord knew.

12:9-11 The Lord was going to punish Israel by taking them out of the good land He had given them. He had warned them plenty by the prophets.

12:12-13 Lessons from history: The Lord punishes those who are unethical, and takes care of those who follow Him. The Lord leads His people by speaking through humans, prophets.

Which way do you want to live - trying to get ahead by unethical ways, or trusting God, doing things His way, and letting Him give you what He wants to give you?

12:14-13:16 The Lord was going to punish Israel harshly. They deserved it. The Lord had cared for them and prospered them. They rebelled against the Lord, and would not respond to the call of the prophets to turn back to the Lord.

Be careful of what you want, specifically that it is not against what the Lord wants for you.

Be careful of prosperity, specifically that wanting it or having it doesn't turn you away from the Lord.

What is your response to this? Discuss it with someone today.

Suggested related reading: 1 Timothy 6:8-11