# Lesson 20 Hosea 5 Guilt of the Religious and Political Leaders

(Faith) Jesus tells us that if we seek Him, we will find Him.   
What clue does Jeremiah give that explains why Israel and Ephraim will not find Him?  
Who has withdrawn from whom?

Hosea 5:5-6

5 The arrogance of Israel bears witness against him;  
 Israel and Ephraim stumble because of their iniquity,  
 and Judah stumbles with them.

6 With their flocks and herds they will go to seek the LORD,   
 but will not find him; he has withdrawn from them.

Matthew 7:7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

Jeremiah 29:12-14

12 When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you.

13 When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart,

14 you will find me with you, says the LORD, and I will change your lot;   
 I will gather you together from all the nations and all the places to which I have banished you,   
 says the LORD, and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you.

(Hope) For all God’s accusations and incrimination,   
He always offers a way back to Him for those willing to repent and seek Him.   
How is that hope still present for you today?

Hosea 5:15

I will go back to my place until they make reparation and seek my presence.   
In their affliction, they shall look for me

(Love) A. Highlight the deeds in this chapter that prevent the people from returning to God.

Hosea 5:4

Their deeds do not allow them to return to their God

Hosea 5:1-15

1 Hear this, priests, pay attention, house of Israel, Household of the king, give ear!  
 For you are responsible for judgment. But you have been a snare at Mizpah,  
 a net spread upon Tabor,

2 a pit dug deep in Shittim. Now I will discipline them all.

3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hidden from me:

Now, Ephraim, you have practiced prostitution, Israel is defiled.

4 Their deeds do not allow them to return to their God;

For the spirit of prostitution is in them, and they do not know the LORD.

5 The arrogance of Israel bears witness against him;

Israel and Ephraim stumble because of their iniquity, and Judah stumbles with them.

6 With their flocks and herds they will go to seek the LORD, but will not find him;

he has withdrawn from them.

7 They have betrayed the LORD, for they have borne illegitimate children;

Now the new moon\* will devour them together with their fields.

8 Blow the ram’s horn in Gibeah the trumpet in Ramah!

Sound the alarm in Beth-aven: “Look behind you, Benjamin!”

9 Ephraim shall become a wasteland on the day of punishment:

Among the tribes of Israel I announce what is sure to be.

10 The princes of Judah have become like those who move a boundary line;

Upon them I will pour out my wrath like water.

11 Ephraim is oppressed, crushed by judgment, for he has willingly gone after filth!

12 I am like a moth for Ephraim, like rot for the house of Judah.

13 When Ephraim saw his infirmity, and Judah his sore, Ephraim went to Assyria,

and sent to the great king. But he cannot heal you, nor take away your sore.

14 For I am like a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah;

It is I who tear the prey and depart, I carry it away and no one can save it.

15 I will go back to my place until they make reparation and seek my presence.

In their affliction, they shall look for me.

B. Which of the highlighted deeds still prevent you from turning to God?