**Hosea 8**

Corruption of Cult, Domestic & Foreign Policies

Lesson 23

1. **When this week did you feel the closest to God? Was there a message or verse in this week’s study of Hosea that you found particularly inspiring in some way?**
2. **Read verses 1-4. What is the message here? Compare this to Luke 13:26-28. Are the messages similar?**

**Hosea 8:1-4**  **1**Put the trumpet to your lips! One like an eagle is over the house of the Lord!
Because they have violated my covenant, and rebelled against my law,
**2**They cry out to me, “My God! We know you!” **3**But Israel has rejected what is good;
   the enemyshall pursue him. **4**They made kings, but not by my authority;
   they established princes, but without my knowledge.

**Luke 13:26-28**

**26**And you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’ **27**Then he will say to you, ‘I do not know where [you] are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!’ **28**And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.

1. **Again, this chapter returns to the theme of worship of false gods and idols. What are the two most important reasons that we should *not* put our faith in things of our own making?**

**Hosea 8:5-6** He has rejected your calf, Samaria!
    My wrath is kindled against them;
How long will they be incapable of innocence
    in Israel? **6**An artisan made it, it is no god at all.
The calf of Samaria will be dashed to pieces.

1. **We are all familiar with the golden calves that the Israelites made in the book of Exodus. Read 1 Kings 12:26-30 below. Why were golden calves created in this instance?**

# 1 Kings 12:26-30 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)

**26**Jeroboam thought to himself: “Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. **27**If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord in Jerusalem, the hearts of this people will return to their master, Rehoboam, king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam, king of Judah.” **28**The king took counsel, made two calves of gold, and said to the people: “You have been going up to Jerusalem long enough. Here are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” **29**And he put one in Bethel, the other in Dan. **30**This led to sin, because the people frequented these calves in Bethel and in Dan.

1. **Reflection:** **While we may not create idols or golden calves, what is it that we tend to put a great deal of faith in rather than trusting God or turning to God?**
2. **In verses 7-10 we see a series of sayings which describe future consequences for the actions Israel is taking. In verse 7, the word for “wind” was a catchword in Wisdom, to describe unstable, helpless vanity. How does this affect the meaning of verse 7?**

 **Hosea 8: 7-10**

7When they sow the wind, they will reap the whirlwind;
The stalk of grain that forms no head, can yield no flour;
Even if it could, strangers would swallow it.
**8**Israel is swallowed up; now they are among the nations, like a useless vessel.
**9**For they went up to Assyria— a wild ass off on its own—Ephraim bargained for lovers.
**10**Even though they bargain with the nations, I will now gather them together;
They will soon succumb under the burden of king and princes.

**11**When Ephraim made many altars to expiate sin, they became altars for sinning.
**12**Though I write for him my many instructions, they are considered like a stranger’s.
**13**They love sacrifice, they sacrifice meat and eat it, but the Lord is not pleased with them.
Now he will remember their guilt and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.
**14**Israel has forgotten his maker and has built palaces. Judah, too, has fortified many cities,
    but I will send fire upon his cities, to devour their strongholds.

1. **How are *farming and harvests* used to illustrate the order that God has established as well as the impact of Israel’s actions and future consequences? *See verses 7-10 above and Deuteronomy 28:15-18 below.***

# Deuteronomy 28:15-68

**Curses for Disobedience.** **15**But if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, your God, carefully observing all his commandments and statutes which I give you today, all these curses shall come upon you and overwhelm you:

**16**May you be cursed in the city, and cursed in the country! **17**Cursed be your grain basket and your kneading bowl! **18**Cursed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! **19**May you be cursed in your coming in, and cursed in your going out!

1. **Check to see if you have footnotes to explain vs. 11. How have the altars of sacrifice become altars of sin?**
2. **Look at verses 8-14 again. What are the offenses noted that have changed the character of Israel, the Chosen People?**
3. **Find the verses in these prophecies that reveal that God has judged Israel and will punish for the sins.**

**See verses 8-14.**