

Texts, NRSV: Romans 9.20-26; Hosea 2.23; 1.10

**i. We've taken time to look at a couple prophecies from the Hebrew Bible**

- a The Hebrews know God will save the nations, *Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob* knew
- b Today we're going to look at how the Apostle Paul views this topic

**ii. Paul is in the middle of a discussion about this, Romans 9.20-24**

- a There are plenty of ways to interpret what Paul is saying
- b I choose to believe that in the context of Passages like this
  - 1 Paul is painting with very broad strokes . . . i.e. Jews and Gentiles
  - 2 He's NOT saying that God is hand-selecting or rejecting individuals
- c There is a new people that God is raising up, He has *predestined* the Church
- d Jewish and Gentile individuals have a choice to *sail on this ship*, or *opt out*

**iii. What Paul does next is pretty spectacular for Jews and Gentiles in the EC**

- a He starts referencing prophecies from the Hebrew Bible about the Church
  - 1 It's spectacular for the Jew because they are remind to love the nations
  - 2 It's spectacular for the nations, What better way to feel like we *belong*?
  - 3 We'll just look at one example, but Paul continues for 3 chapters!!
- b The Apostle Paul won't let it go, and neither should we, it's a non-negotiable

**iv. Let's back up to verse 23 and read through 26**

- a Verses 25 and 26 are from two different areas of Hosea
- b 1st, **Romans 9.25, Hosea 2.23**: we're looking at various languages
  - 1 The name *Lo-ruhamah* means *Not pitied* (or not loved)
  - 2 The name *Lo-ammi* means *Not my people*
  - 3 The meaning is the same - the nations now have a place to *belong*
- c More importantly, you and I are not inviting them to the table . . .
  - 1 In Hosea and in the way that Paul quotes this passage . . .
  - 2 God is the one who is inviting them to the table
  - 3 It's prophetic, God through His Son the Messiah is calling the nations
- d This is intimate language, extremely personal
  - 1 Hosea is vivid, almost a graphic novel, of a prophet & his wayward wife
  - 2 God uses the story of this suffering prophet to share His heart for Israel
  - 3 God calls to Israel the way Hosea calls to his straying wife Gomer
  - 4 God even uses the illustration of being the husband of Israel
- e Paul expands the intimate language of Hosea, revealing God's heart for us
  - 1 Hosea courts Gomer, and reconciles with her after she strays

2 In the same way God courts Israel, calls her back when she wanders

3 Paul says God is also doing the same intimate work among the nations

**v. Not only does God call the nations to the table, He calls them “beloved”**

a This term is related to *agape*, in the NT, a love most associated with God

1 *The Beloved* indicates those that God is fond of, those He loves dearly

Nouwen: “The Christian community is a community of people who remind each other who they truly are – the beloved of God.”<sup>1</sup>

2 *Agapao*, the Beloved: is a strong term. Is this how we think of church?

b Sometimes churches in general may *TALK* one way, but *WALK* another way

1 Churches sometimes talk about love but operate like businesses

2 We don’t always measure success by how many people we’re discipling

3 We tend to think of the Church’s success in business-like language

4 Good businesses have mission statements, values, strategies, etc.

c While we’re using business models, God is thinking in terms of intimacy

1 What does it mean to be known as *The Beloved* of God?

2 How can we *embody* God’s call to draw the nations into intimacy?

\* If we really want to understand the mission of the Church, 1 of the crucial elements we cannot dismiss is Christ’s desire to reach everyone. From Israel to all the nations, anyone can accept God’s call to be part of the Church, ***The Beloved of the Messiah***.

d So Hosea is clear . . . Paul is clear . . . God clearly calls everyone to intimacy

1 I admit, this idea may sound “simple,” even silly to you, *Christianity 101*

2 If it’s such a simple concept, Why is it so difficult to practice at times?

3 I really don’t believe that churches break this fellowship rule on purpose

Sine: “In spite of all the talk about Christ’s Lordship, everyone knows that the expectations of modern culture comes first. Everyone knows that getting ahead in the job comes first. Getting ahead in the suburbs comes first. Getting the kids off to their activities comes first. And we tend to make decisions in these areas pretty much like everyone else does, based on our income, our professions, and our social status.”<sup>2</sup>

4 We have to rearrange our priorities to make decisions God’s way

e One decision we can make is to offer belonging and a place in *The Beloved*

**vi. The 2nd prophecy of Hosea reinforces God’s desire to reach the Gentiles**

a **Romans 9.26; Hosea 1.10:** God hopes for an intimate relationship with Israel

---

<sup>1</sup> Henri J. M. Nouwen and Philip Roderick, *Beloved: Henri Nouwen in Conversation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2007), p. 20).

<sup>2</sup> Tom Sine, *Mustard Seed versus McWorld: Reinventing Life and Faith for the Future* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999), 155.

*The Gathering | The Beloved of the Messiah*

JVI, Long Lake Friends Church, 07.26.20, 3

b In Romans 9, Paul is expanding Hosea's prophecy to include the nations  
c Those who were once a people that did not know God, outsiders to Israel  
d Now, all the nations are now called to become "Children of the living God"

*We are no longer outsiders, but part of the Kingdom of God*

*We are not merely a "people-group" that someone has reached*

*We are not subjects or servants*

*We join Israel as Children of God*

*We know God on intimate terms because He has drawn us in*

*As foretold in the Hebrew Bible, we are The Beloved of the Messiah*