Hosea – God's Relentless Love

What are we Cultivating?

NOTE GUIDE

SERIES GOAL
That together we would be invited to honestly examine our own hearts, recognize the idols and false hopes we are prone to trust, and grow more deeply thankful for the grace of God that redeems, restores, and leads us into fruitful life with Him.

THIS WEEK'S ANCHOR QUESTION
What are our lives producing, and how does God lead us into a different kind of fruitfulness?

SCRIPTURE
Hosea 9:10-17, 10:1-15

DATE
11/1/26

SPEAKER
Pastor Chris Lenhart

What we cultivate reaches beyond us. (9:10-17)
See also: Numbers 25

More Fruit ≠ Better Fruit (10:1-8)

God's Call to Open the Ground. (10:9-15)
See also: Judges 19-21

Jesus Gives the Life that Bears Good Fruit. (John 15:1-5)

Return: Coming to the Table.
Questions for self-reflection and self-inspection

1) What fruit needs my honest attention?
2) What ground have I kept closed off, or tried to protect, or keep hidden from God?
3) Where do I need to practice a deeper dependence on Jesus?

HOLDING TENSION: questions, convictions, prompts for further study...

DIG DEEPER

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A guide for personal or family devotion time, or small group or ABF

Pray	Ask Jesus to guide your time. Pray through requests for family, church, community, career, friends, etc.
Focus	What are our lives producing, and how does God lead us into a different kind of fruitfulness?
Read	Hosea 9:10-17, 10:1-15 (Read in two different versions)
Reflect or Discuss	1. "We can consider whether our presence makes honesty safer, mercy more recognizable, and repentance more imaginable?" – *How do people experience our response when they admit a mistake or raise a concern? What might our own willingness to acknowledge wrongdoing teach others about repentance?* 2. "A larger field does not change the seed being sown into it." – *As our resources, opportunities, or influence increase, what attitudes and habits are growing alongside them? How is that growth affecting the people around us?* 3. "We can recognize the goodness of God's word while leaving certain places in our lives untouched by it." – *Where might we agree with God's Word while resisting its application? What have we kept protected? What would it require of us to open that space to God?* 4. "They [the disciples] are not being asked to produce fruit to earn His welcome. They are called to remain in the One who has received them." – *How does receiving the grace of Jesus change our motivation for obedience? What helps us recognize the difference between trying to earn His acceptance and responding to His love?* 5. "Fruitfulness has the recognizable character of Jesus." – *Where do we see the Spirit growing His fruit in us? Where might we be measuring growth by achievement while overlooking our treatment of others?*
Apply	**Give one area of fruit honest attention:** Observe a recurring response in your daily life. Thank God for evidence of His grace. Where you observe bitterness, defensiveness, or impatience, confess it specifically and ask for His help. **Open a place you have kept closed:** Identify a confession you have postponed, a wrong that needs repair, or someone's burden you need to carry for a while. What is the next step of faithfulness in that/those area(s)? **Practice deeper dependence on Jesus:** Before a difficult event, conversation, or decision, pause: "Jesus, teach me to abide in you, right here." Let His words guide your response and ask the Holy Spirit to help you act with faithful love.