

3rd week of October

Renew Your Heart of An Old Land

- **Text:** Hosea 10:12~13 (October 13)
- **Main Point:** Renew your insensitivity to sin and live like God's people.

≡ 1. Praise

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≡ 2. Prayer

God, our family gathers our hearts and comes before you. Please enlighten us of Your will, and help us respond with obedience .

≡ 3. The Word

Read Hosea 10:12~13 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

12 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

13 You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own Way and in the multitude of your warriors

<NASB>

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Understanding Text

When Israel's sins persisted for so long, God decided to stop being patient and punish them for their sins. After hearing the judgment warning, Israel must sow righteousness for himself and reap the fruit of lovingkindness. If we seek God and renew our minds as if we were plowing old ground, and forsake our sins, we will experience the grace of salvation.

Understanding the text for leaders

In Hosea's day, the king of northern Israel was Jeroboam II. He ruled in northern Israel for 41 years. During his reign, northern Israel grew in power, exerting great influence over the surrounding nations and expanding its territory and prosperity (2 Kings 14:25). Northern Israel, which enjoyed economic prosperity and political stability, forgot God. We had a wonderful and gorgeous worship service with our rich possessions, but there was no reverence for God there. So it was with the priests. I didn't study God's word properly, and I didn't know how to teach the people. To the Israelites, God was just the god of the wilderness who led their ancestors in the past, but what they needed now was Baal, who sent rain and storms to help their crops go well. So they worshipped God in a formal way and worshipped Baal as a more important god. The people became spiritually depraved and morally insensitive, and they did injustice to their neighbors. They oppressed and exploited the poor, and they didn't care about the pain or hurt of others for their own benefit. God foretold His judgment against these people. Hosea compares the sin-stricken people to the old land and calls for them to be renewed. If they want to live uprightly, God will give them grace and love, and if they will only return to God and seek Him, God will do justice to them right away.

4. Sharing

1) God told the Israelites to "cultivate the old land." What is the metaphor of the "old land"? (verse 12)

Upper Grades

What did God tell the Israelites to do right now? (verse 12).

Lower Grades

What did God tell the Israelites to do now? (verse 12).

Question Guide

Old land refers to land that has not been cultivated for a long time. It hasn't been cultivated for a long time, so it can have a lot of weeds, thorns, and stones. If you want to plant a seed in old soil and make it grow, you have to plow the field. The old land in the text refers to a heart that has not repented for a long time. Sin is rooted in this kind of heart. God tells us to plow up the soil of our sinful hearts, sow righteousness and love, and reap the fruit. Tell the people who are mired in sin, unaware of the impending judgment, that God can escape judgment if they return to Him.

Comments for Leaders

From the time of Gibeah until now, Israel's sins have lasted for a long time. The hearts of the people, who were accustomed to sin, were like old land. God has been patient and withheld judgment, but now He will discipline Him when He wants. Therefore, we must turn around and live rightly as God's people. Only then can we receive God's mercy and grace. You have to seek God right now and get rid of your sins as if you were plowing up old ground. Then you will experience the grace of salvation that falls like a shower. The best time to seek God and repent is now. Seeking God and turning to the way of living rightly as God's people is the only way for them to live.

2) What are some of the habits of sin that have become entrenched in me? What do I need to do to get rid of it?

■ **Upper Grades**

What are some bad habits that are not pleasing to God? What can you do right now to break bad habits ?

■ **Lower Grades**

What bad habits do I need to break? What will it take to fix it?

□ **Question Guide**

If you follow what you are comfortable with or what you like rather than what God says, you may develop bad habits without realizing it. Bad habits are like a recipe for sin. You have to get rid of bad habits in advance so that you don't leave them alone for a long time. The older the habit, the harder it is to break it.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

The Israelites had long since forgotten God's law, sinned, and lived a life that had nothing to do with God. They didn't remember God, and they bowed down and made offerings to Baal just as they had always served Baal. They believed that Baal would feed them and give them plenty of food. God still gave these people a chance. He told me to come back and seek God. It's not easy to get out of the life we've lived so far, but we have to dare to get rid of our sin-ridden self and live like God's people. When we forget God and become accustomed to living according to our own thoughts, we become habitually sinful. We need to find out what we have in our sinfulness or bad habits that cause us to commit sins and try to get rid of them as soon as possible.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Give thanks to God for giving us the wrong habit of sin and guiding us on the right path.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God, may our hearts turn away from sin. Help us to break the habit of sin that You hate.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
