

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35  
Union Valley, TX

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## ***Message – A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words***

Contrast of God Being Mad and Merciful

Do you see God as mad at you, or a merciful God?

When we love anything above God, He gets mad.

God used people to say something about HIMSELF through their life.

***Hosea 1:2-3 2 When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” 3 So he married Gomer, daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.***

God told him to marry a prostitute – to illustrate His love for Israel.

Think about the pain of betrayal, adultery or a friend stabs you in the back.

God is saying “That’s how I feel.”

Think about the advice you give people in these situations

Gomer can’t stay home; she keeps running back to the life she knew. Between Chapter 1 and Chapter 3, she leaves Hosea.

How then does God deal with his anger?

***Chapter 3 1 The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” 2 So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. 3 Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any many, and I will behave the same way toward you.”***

Go AGAIN – Gomer had left him for the Temple or brothel Raisin Cakes...

30 shekels of silver – about 4 months’ salary. He bought Gomer back. Imagine what his friends thought.

Hosea told her to be faithful ...

***Jeremiah 13:1 – 10*** ***1 This is what the Lord said to me: “Go and buy a linen belt (underwear, piece of material tied like a diaper, men worked in this, usually made of animals skins) and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water.”*** (don't wash it) ***2 So I bought a belt, as the Lord directed, and put it around my waist.*** (so all Jeremiah is wearing is underwear, and skinny ones at that, linen!)

***3 The word of the Lord came to me a second time: 4 “Take the belt you bought and are wearing around your waist, and go now to Perath and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks.”*** ***5 So I went and hid it at Perath, as the Lord told me.***

***6 Many days later the Lord said to me, “Go now to Perath and get the belt I told you to hide there.”*** ***7 So I went to Perath and dug up the belt and took it from the place where I had hidden it, but now it was ruined and completely useless.***

***8 The word of the Lord came to me: 9 “This is what the Lord says: ‘In the same way I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. 10 These wicked people, who refuse to listen to my words, who follow the stubbornness of their hearts and go after other gods to serve and worship them, will be like this belt – completely useless!’***

Is your life an object of God's wrath or examples of His mercy?

What does God do when he's mad...  
Extends forgiveness.

How do we know if we understand this side of God? When we extend forgiveness.

God is not like a two sided coin. Justice and Mercy – He is both at all times, all Justice and Mercy.

We are guilty of loving other things instead of God

**God is made for you, not at you.**

***2 Corinthians 4:1-7*** ***1 Therefore, since through God's MERCY we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.***

**We have this ministry – Your purpose is to be a billboard of God's mercy, not his wrath, but you will be one or the other. We do not lose heart – get discouraged.**

***2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting for the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.***

We never trick people into coming to church – Distort the word of God – do you know how big we could grow this church if we just said you don't have to believe in Jesus, just be the best you can be...(literally means to dilute).

Truth Plainly – we're all sinners in need of a savior. It doesn't do God or the church any good to get people any other way.

Every man's conscience – this means our life and our message line up with each other – they may reject Christ, but they can never say we lived like we don't believe it.

***3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.***  
***4 The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

Satan is endlessly trying to fill everyone's mind with so much stuff they have no room left for the knowledge of Christ. (if Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy) Satan wants to keep your life so messed up that you never have time to think about God (money, relationships, addictions are key area to watch for)

***5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake*** (we serve those who are blind)  
***6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness, " made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.*** (turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace)  
***7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.***

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