

Session 1: The Prophet Hosea

D. A Prophetic Action

Activity 1.3

Read the following passages.

For each passage, try to work out exactly what the prophet was called to do and then try to imagine what the impact would have been both on the prophet and on the people of his time.

In each case, why do you think God called the prophet to these actions? The passages are:

- Jeremiah 16:1-13
- Ezekiel 24:15-24
- Hosea 1:2-3

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2 When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, 'Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.' 3 So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

These verses are the brief account of Hosea's CALL TO BE A PROPHET.

"When the Lord first spoke to Hosea ..." could be paraphrased, "The first thing the Lord said to Hosea was ..."

They introduce a typical report of a PROPHETIC ACTION. The report is given in the form: "The Lord said to the prophet, 'Do such and such ...' followed by an explanation of what the action is to mean. Finally, we are told that the prophet goes and does the action.

Right from the start, Hosea is pitched into the central issue of his ministry. But he is not a 'commentator', sitting on the sidelines, pondering and coming to conclusions, like a newspaper columnist or political pundit today. The message the Lord gives him affects him personally, at the deepest level; in his case, in his marriage.

In the passages from Jeremiah and Ezekiel, we see that the same applied to these men. The lives of the prophets were bound up with their message. They had not only to speak it but also to live it, often at great cost to themselves.