

Remnant Life Church
October 19, 2014
“God’s Love – Accept or Reject?”
I Samuel 8:1-9

- What is your story?
 - The story of your life
 - What is your testimony?
 - I met with an ordination committee and they wanted to know my testimony – it tells them who I am
 - Your story says and perhaps even defines who you are
- What is God’s story?
 - Is that a question that I can even ask?
 - We assign God anthropomorphic characteristics
- The Bible gives us God’s story.
 - A library of 66 books that combines to make one book
 - Written by 44 authors
 - Over 1500 years
 - OT – written between 1400 and 400 BC
 - 450 years of the intertestamental period
 - NT – between 50 and 100 AD
- Does the Bible contain a single theme and if so how is that possible given how it was written?
- Simply put - the Word of God is a *love story*
 - It is the greatest love story ever told
 - It is the story of God’s love for us, His creation
 - It is a story of rejection and redemption
- Unlike the love stories written by man this one is completely one-sided
 - It is eternal and without end
 - It even continues when it is completely and utterly rejected
 - Because His love for us is so great that He has given us the ability, the option to reject it, to reject Him
- Yet God is continually faithful even when we are not
 - But this does not mean that God does not ask, and even require that we accept His love
 - That is a hard concept for us to understand because we do not think of requiring someone’s love
 - But God is not concerned about trivial affection or insincere actions or words; He wants the affection of our heart in order to remove the barrier of sin from our lives
- Hosea was a prophet who wrote the book in the OT that bears his name
 - His is the first of the 12 books that make up the minor prophets
 - The OT is 5 books of Moses (Pentateuch)

- 12 books of history
 - 5 books of poetry
 - 5 major prophets
 - 12 minor prophets
 - This does not reflect their importance but their length
 - Each were written on one scroll and so were called minor when the books of the Bible were organized
 - By the hand of man but by the will of God
 - Muratorian Canon – 170 (first to group books together)
 - Council of Laodicea in 363 (grouped the OT and NT books that we use today)
- Hosea's story, by today's standards, is unjust and tragic but it is a story of accepting or rejecting God
 - He is commanded by God to take “an adulterous wife” (**Hos 1:2**)
 - This was most likely what she became after their marriage not what she was before
 - It was a prophetic statement of the effects of sin
- The account is a physical representation of Israel's relationship to God
 - Hosea represents God
 - Gomer represented Israel
 - She deserts her husband just as Israel deserted God and worshipped other gods
 - But Gomer also represents us
 - How much Gomer is there in our lives today?
 - Her lifestyle would mirror the same today in our hearts if we reject God
 - What we want is most important; we are unfaithful to the truth of God's Word; we compromise our behavior; we are driven by the flesh instead of the spirit
 - But God shows His unfailing love and calls Israel back to Himself just as Hosea went and got his wife back (**Hos 3:1**)
 - Rejecting God and His love leads to a life filled with the things of the world that are ultimately unsatisfying and lead to death (spiritual; eternal)
- **Read I Sam 8:1-9**
 - Moses has led the people out of Egypt and Joshua into the promised land
 - The time of the Judges comes and goes with Eli and Samuel as the last of the leadership with both judge and prophet calls
 - Samuel is getting old and the people are getting nervous
 - Why did the people want a king?
 - They did not trust God to protect and provide for them and would not listen (v 19)
 - They were lacking godly leadership (v 5)

- It was more important for them to identify with the other nations around them than to be recognized as God people, set apart, a remnant. (v 20; **Duet 7:6**)
- God says to Samuel that the people did not reject Samuel, they rejected God
 - They were given a choice
 - Every decision, every choice carries with it consequences
 - Some of them are good (blessings)
 - Some are bad (judgment)
 - When you declare yourself independent of God you are rejecting Him and His love
- You are given a choice when it comes to God and His love
 - You can accept that gift by acknowledging Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, or you can reject it
(**Rom 6:23**)
 - You can choose to have faith in Him every day as you live your life or you can believe the things of the world and live in doubt and fear
- **Read Joshua 24:1-15**
- Every choice is yours! Will you accept God and His love and power for your life everyday by obeying His word, or will you reject it?