

God often does his best work in impossible situations. Consider the story of Hosea; an old testament prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel prior to its fall. Hosea's ministry lasted some forty years!

God instructed Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute, and father children with her. Her prostitution was symbolic of how far Israel had turned from God's truths, but this seeming sordid marriage stood for God's redemption plan for humanity.

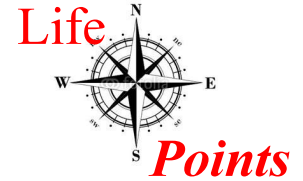
Even though Gomer made choices to reject Hosea, God continually called him to love her unconditionally.

The Apostle Paul shares with us that God, himself, proved this type of extravagant love. *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. (Eph 2:4-5)*

While it is true that we can ignore and even reject God's love, it never diminishes that fact that His love is always available. He never rescinds His love for us.

Just as Hosea's love triumphed in the end, so will God's love work a miracle of transformation in us.

December 17, 2017
Christmas Distinctives
Scandalous Love
Jim Edwards



Sermon Notes