

**Hosea 5,6****10-10-02*****“The Moth, The Rot, & The Lion!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Pray for Vic & Diane – to Belize.
- 1.2. As chapter 4 was the **cause** of sin, now ch.5 is the **effect**(judgment).

**2. THEIR DEEDS! (1-3)**

- 2.1. (1) Priests, the People, & Political Power heads.

**3. THEIR DEEDS KEPT THEM FROM GOD! (4-7)**

- 3.1. (4-7) (NIV) **"Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD."**
  - 3.1.1. **Q:** Why do you think that their deeds didn't permit them to return to God? {Because they were still living in sin}
  - 3.1.2. **Q:** What do we mean then when we say, "come just as you are"?
    - 3.1.2.1. We infer that repentance from old deeds is part of the equation. {Here, they still had the spirit of prostitution in their midst!}
  - 3.1.3. **Here starts the downward spiral!**
    - 3.1.3.1. **Their deeds** kept them from God(4); So, God **withdrew Himself** from them(6); And **God would wait there**(in His place)until they would admit their guilt(15).
  - 3.1.4. (6) **This was a hypocritical quest** through sacrificial ritual!
    - 3.1.4.1. i.e. **"with their flocks & herds."**
  - 3.1.5. Sometimes God plays the **waiting Father!**
    - 3.1.5.1. **Q:** Can you think of a NT example of that?(prodigal son)
  - 3.1.6. God withdrawals that we may want Him!
    - 3.1.6.1. **Q:** Have you ever felt God was withdrawing(or was quiet) from you in order to help you value Him more? {of course He'll never leave you or forsake you}
    - 3.1.6.2. We've all said, **"you don't know how much you miss something until it is gone!"**
      - 3.1.6.2.1. On the mission field...it's Mexican Food!
      - 3.1.6.2.2. On a more serious note, the death of a loved one.

#### 4. **THE MOTH & THE ROT! (8-12)**

- 4.1. (8) This verse reads like a battle cry!
  - 4.1.1. All 3 cities were part of the tribal territory of Benjamin.
- 4.2. (12) To sinning Israel God is like a **moth**, like **rottenness**.
  - 4.2.1. **Q:** Why do you think God likens himself to a **moth** or to **rot**?
  - 4.2.2. **Moths** destroy clothing(Job on a bad day said, “**Man decays like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten.**”13:28). **Rot** usually is in reference to that slow progressive bone decay.

#### 5. **THE LION! (8-15)**

- 5.1. (13) **Q:** Where did Israel go to try to find a substitute for God’s help?
  - 5.1.1. **Assyria!** – can you identify your own “Assyria”? (where do you turn to, to find help?)
  - 5.1.2. Acts 26:20(Paul to Agrippa re: Jews & Gentiles) “...**that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.**”
  - 5.1.3. [Martin Luther] “That little bird has chosen his shelter; above it are the stars and the deep heaven of worlds; yet he is rocking himself to sleep without caring for tomorrow's lodging, calmly clinging to his little twig and leaving God to think for him.”
  - 5.1.4. “The more we depend on God, the more dependable we find He is.”
- 5.2. (14) **From moth to raging Lion!**
  - 5.2.1. A **Lion** because of its fierceness.
- 5.3. (15) **Here the Lion retreats to His Lair!** - God withdraws so that we may realize what we are missing & want Him to come back to us again.
  - 5.3.1. Not that God always works this way, but we see sometimes He uses **affliction** in our lives to draw us unto Him.
    - 5.3.1.1. It is God’s merciful waves that wash us upon the rock of our salvation!
  - 5.3.2. **Affliction** = pain, suffering, any cause of suffering. (even emotional!)
  - 5.3.3. **When afflicted...**
  - 5.3.4. **Pray for Personal Revival** – Ps.119:107 “I am **afflicted** very much; **Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.**”

- 5.3.5. Remember His Faithfulness - Ps.119:75 “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have **afflicted** me.”
- 5.3.6. Pray for His Knowledge - Ps.119:71 “It is good for me that I have been **afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes.”
- 5.3.7. Pray for Obedience - Ps.119:67 “Before I was **afflicted** I went astray, But now I keep Your word.”
- 5.3.8. Spurgeon, “Losses & adversities are frequently the means which the great Shepherd uses to fetch home His wondering sheep!”
- 5.3.9. If the chosen soul won’t come to God **full-handed**, it shall come **empty!** - If we fail to honor Him on the **pinnacle of riches**, he will bring us to the **valley of poverty**.
- 5.3.10. Recognize tonight the loving hand which chastens, & say, “I will arise & go unto my Father.”

## 6. **THE CALL TO REPENTANCE!** (chapter 6)

- 6.1. Guilty Israel Speaks! (1-3)
- 6.2. (1) God hurts to heal!
  - 6.2.1. **Example:** Setting my broken arm in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - 6.2.2. **Torn** – from lion in vs.14.
- 6.3. God Speaks! (4-6)
  - 6.3.1. (4) Here God has **Divine doubts** about their sincerity!
  - 6.3.2. It was a “Shallow Religious Revival”!
  - 6.3.3. Their loyalty **drifted** like a morning cloud, & **dried up** like the dew.
    - 6.3.3.1. Here one minute gone the next.
  - 6.3.4. (6) **Mercy** – (𐤎𐤍𐤅𐤇𐤃 *hesed*) 275 in OT.
    - 6.3.4.1. Means “covenant love”, “loyal love”. It is a **steel-ribbed love**.
    - 6.3.4.2. The NIV translates 10:12 as “unfailing love”.
    - 6.3.4.3. Kathy Troccoli’s song, “It’s your **stubborn love** That never lets go of me.”
  - 6.3.5. This scripture must have been one of Jesus’ **favorites!** He quotes it 2 times, & even adds a “**Go & learn this**” & the other time “**if you only knew what this meant!**”
    - 6.3.5.1. **Mt.9:9-13**(esp. 13) – Jesus only came to save “real” sinners.
      - 6.3.5.1.1. He never deals with our merits, only our demerits!<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon (Matthew; pg.59)

- 6.3.5.2. (re: 9:10) From time to time we hear statistics about how people first came into church membership. These figures trace back to the Institute for American Church Growth, which asked 10,000 people about their pilgrimage. **What led them in? Answers were: Special need, 2 percent; Walk-in, 3 percent; Pastor, 6 percent; Visitation, 1 percent; Sunday school, 5 percent; Evangelistic crusade, 5 percent; Program, 3 percent; Friend/relative, 79 percent.**
- 6.3.5.3. **Q: Folks are we showing Mercy by sitting at the worlds table?** (Howard Hendricks tell this story) I had a dear brother in the ministry who went down the tubes morally—bad case. By the grace of God he was brought back into fellowship, and by God’s grace restored to his ministry. One time when we were fellowshiping together, I said, “I want to pick your brain. I need some help. Where are we failing, in your judgment?” He said, “Howie, when I fell into sin, it was like going down in the surf for the third time. I was looking over at the shore that was filled with believers that I knew, some of whom were crying, ‘Isn’t that tragic?’ some of whom were cursing, saying, ‘You’re supposed to know the Word of God; why did you allow that to happen to you?’ There were some who were wringing their hands, saying, ‘What can we do?’ But there was **only one** who risked the surf to pull me out while I was going down for the third time.”
- 6.3.5.4. **Mt. 12:1-8**(esp. 7) – He assails them again w/the charge of ignorance!
- 6.3.6. **Key** – “The **inner quality of Mercy** is far more pleasing to God than the **correct performance of rituals.**”
- 6.3.6.1. Mercy to the **tax-collectors & sinners**(Mt.9);  
 Mercy to the **hungry disciples**(Mt.12);  
 Israel was showing **no Mercy** during the time of Hosea(Hos.4:1).
- 6.3.7. **And the knowledge of God** - It’s not what you do, it’s who you know!
- 6.4. **But like men(adam)** (7-11)
- 6.4.1. They dealt treacherously with God!!!
- 6.5. **Ending Prayer:**
- 6.5.1. Lord we count on...  
**Your Mercy** for our **past** mistakes;  
**Your Love** for our **present** needs;  
**Your Sovereignty** for our **future**.