

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Our Legacy: Fruit of Unfailing Love or Deception?

Hosea 10 | 20 August 2023 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Reflection Questions

1. The 7 sins of Israel as recorded in Hosea:
 - a. Infidelity (Hosea 1:2; 4:2, 14; 5:7; 7:10; 9:1)
 - b. Independence (Hosea 5:4; 7:7, 13; 8:4; 10:3, 13)
 - c. Intrigue (Hosea 4:2, 6:8)
 - d. Idolatry (Hosea 2:13; 4:13; 8:5; 9:10; 10:5)
 - e. Immorality (Hosea 4:10, 14; 7:7)
 - f. Ignorance (Hosea 4:6, 10, 14)
 - g. Ingratitude (Hosea 2:8, 12; 7:15; 10:1)

In Hosea, God directed these charges of sins to His people. Discuss the contemporary equivalent (of such sins) for a Christian today. This exercise is to help us to be careful not to fall into contemporary versions of these seven sins in our lives.

2. Theologically, there are two reasons why we will be blessed:
 - a. Because of God's favour: God promises to bless His people (Genesis 12:2, Deuteronomy 28, John 10:10, Ephesians 1:3)
 - b. Because of God's Word (if we live in accordance to it – its wisdom will help us to reap rewards).

Consider the lives of Christians (whether present or in the past) – do you believe that God will bless His people? Does He really shower His people with Favour? Does God's Word truly help His people to receive blessings – even in earthly forms? If so, in what ways?

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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3. John Wesley said, *“wherever true Christianity spreads it must cause diligence and frugality, which must beget riches. And riches naturally beget pride, love of the world, and every temper that is destructive of Christianity.”*

Do you agree with John Wesley’s words? Do you have testimonies / historical accounts to back up his words? What are the dangers of riches?

4. The three great pursuits of life, as recorded in Ecclesiastes, are the Pursuit of Knowledge, the Pursuit of Pleasures and the Pursuit of Achievements. These pursuits in themselves are not sinful, but there is a danger they could lead us away from God.

Share your own life journey – how much have you given to pursue after these three attractive goals? How much (%) of your time, resources, and passion are poured into these pursuits? Have you found satisfaction from your quests?

[Note: It is not sinful to be satisfied with these pursuits – in many sense, it is a gift of God if the pursuits do not lead to sin].

What do you think is God’s will – should we give up our pursuits? Should we balance our pursuits with godly pursuits or consider God when we go after knowledge, pleasures and achievements?

5. There are 3 questions that we can use to examine our own lives, with regards to our relationship with God in our lives:
 - a. Is God incidental?
 - b. Is God supplemental?
 - c. Is God fundamental?

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This question can be very personal. Nevertheless, I would want you to take some time to reflect honestly. If God is not fundamental in your life, would you want Him to be? The Bible says there is a GREAT BLESSING when He is fundamental in our lives – dare we believe it by faith? If so, pray this prayer:

“Lord, help me to grow to be more like Your Son. Maybe today You are not fully in my speech, actions and choices, but Holy Spirit, work in my heart, so that I will slowly be transformed, to have more of God in my heart, and less of my selfish desires.”

6. What legacy do we want to give to our children/youths? Faith in Jesus Christ or just a Christian name? Fruit of Unfailing love or Deception (Christian culture instead of true relationship with Jesus)?

There are three groups of second-generation Christian youths in the church (in general):

- a. The Discipled Youths
- b. The Mainstream Youths
 - i. Intellectual Christians
 - ii. Roller-coaster Christians with neither discipline nor root
 - iii. Indifferent Christians (forced to go to church)
- c. “It’s complicated” Youths

If you have children or grandchildren, or if you know of young people, what can you do to help them to become “Discipled Youths”? Reflect honestly what kind of Christians they are (Mainstream or Complicated) and what you can do.

Important: Take some time to pray for the children and youths in your lives, as well as in our church.

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