

# SERMON REFLECTIONS

## Who is God? (Is God Indecisive?)

Hosea 6-7 | 6 August 2023 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

### Reflection Questions

1. Overview of Hosea chapters 6 & 7:
    - a. **6:1-4** The people of Israel are encouraged to go back to God, for He will nourish and bless them again (after the discipline)
    - b. **6:5-10** God is speaking – pronouncing judgment on Israel and Judah for their unfaithfulness and sin (no mercy on others, no acknowledgement of God, wickedness, robbery, murder, idolatry).
    - c. **7:1-7** God continues His lament of Israel – even though the Lord time and time again would heal Israel, Israel still continued sinning (deceit, theft, robbery, wickedness, lies, adultery, indulgence in wine, mocking others).
    - d. **7:8-13a** The Lord points out the foolishness of Israel – it was drained by other nations, it was left powerless, yet its arrogance and insolence did not allow it to seek the Lord in repentance. It naively sought other nations which would take advantage of it. The consequence would be destruction. They could have been saved if they had sought God for help.
    - e. **7:13b-16** God longs to save them; there was a time the Lord even trained and strengthened them. But they just would not returned to the Lord, even though their needs were great. The end result would be humiliation and despair.
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#### 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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Take the opportunity now to read aloud chapters 6 to 7 in your group.

Are there other truths you can gather (in addition to what is written above) from your reading of God's Word? Share with each other.

Do you know of someone (perhaps your family member or friend) who is totally shut against the gospel and at times may be antagonistic against it? As a group, Pray for each other over these person(s) in your lives.

2. **Who is God?** As Christians, we would believe that the God revealed through the Bible is perfect. But not everyone in the world would have the same conviction. Some militant atheists in the West have very strong criticisms about the God of the Bible and the Church representing Him. Some people in Singapore might have been influenced by them.

Have you come across people with such criticisms of God and His church? If so, what are the criticisms?

Is there anything we can say or do lovingly to respond to the criticisms ?

Nearly 50 years ago, my aunt had a negative experience with some Christians – till today she always associate the church as an organization that only wants her money. Have you heard of people with negative experiences of the church or of Christians?

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**If so, is there anything we should avoid doing so that we do not become a bad testimony for Jesus and His Body?**

3. One of the uniqueness about the Christian faith is the explicit proclamation that our God can be known personally and He wants to be known intimately.

**Do you know in what ways (from the Bible) can we know Jesus personally and intimately? Students of the Bible would know God in an intellectual way (that is, knowing ABOUT God). Followers of Jesus Christ will know God with the mind but also experientially (that is, KNOW God PERSONALLY). Do you have experiences of God in your journey of life?**

**Who is God to you? Is He your Father, Husband, Brother, Master, Friend, Boss, etc? Share with the group so as to edify everyone.**

4. In Hosea 6:4, God asked 2 questions “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah?” as if He is undecided or He needed advice as to how to deal with these 2 nations. In the sermon, Pastor Aaron answered why God seemed to be “indecisive” – and the reason is God’s great love for His people. Love that made Him very unwilling to punish His people.

**In your own journey of life, have you experienced such “indecisiveness” and agony in dealing with a loved one, or friend or even a colleague? (perhaps your brother cheating on his wife, and you are wondering if you should let your sister-in-law know; or a colleague doing something which could potentially affect**

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**(negatively) the company's reputation, and you wonder if you should report him).**

**Can you empathize with God's agony and "indecisiveness" to discipline His people?**

**Is there some sin(s) in our life which could lead us to reap very bad consequences in the future? Think about it. Do you think God should punish you NOW, so as to reduce the future bad consequences, or let you be for the time being. In what way would God be considered more loving?**

**If we could appreciate God's "dilemma", would we not repent of our sins now so that God can focus on transforming us, rather than choosing between disciplining us NOW, or letting us suffer worse consequences in the future.**

**Discuss as a group regarding God's "dilemma".**

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