

Title: What Does Revival Produce?

Scripture: Hosea 10:12

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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Hosea 10:12 *“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”*

Hosea came on the scene when Israel was living in great unfaithfulness toward God. Would you marry a man or woman who you knew would be unfaithful to you? Hosea was told to take a wife that would be unfaithful to him. The purpose of his wife from a spiritual standpoint was that she would represent Israel and their relationship toward God. There are three distinct themes found in Hosea:

- The sins of the people.
- The certainty of judgment
- The assurance of God’s love and forgiveness

When reading this book you see a universal call of rededication of God’s people. Below are some words of wisdom from great revivalists and preachers from the past:

- Harry Moorehouse was considered a great revivalist preacher in his day” while still a young man, he was conducting no revival taking place. Day and night he got on his knees searching his heart. “Oh God why isn’t there a revival? One day, as he was walking along a street of the city, the Holy Spirit showed him a large placard on which was written, “Harry Moorehouse, the Most Famous of All British Preachers!” At once he said to himself, “That’s why there’s no revival!” He went at once to the campaign committee and said, “Brethren, now I know why there is no revival. See how you have advertised me, as the greatest of this and the greatest of that! No wonder the Holy Spirit couldn’t work! He is grieved and quenched because you haven’t magnified the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the wonderful One. I’m just a poor, simple, humble servant, preaching the glorious gospel and saying, ‘Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world!’”
- RA Torrey once said “If church members understood what revival really means, most of them would pray “Lord keep us from having revival.”
- Charles Finney said “revival is a renewed beginning of obedience to God.”
- Vance Abner said “today for all our talk about religious revival and for all our church activities, something is still missing. How oft we hear that something new has been added to this or that, but the real trouble is that something very old has been subtracted. Jeremiah 6:16 *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”*

Hosea uses the phrase “break up your fallow ground”. Fallow ground is ground that was once useful and productive. Now it has been allowed to sit still and harden and become unproductive. Revival means to bring to life again; bring strength; renew intensity.

What Revival Personally Accomplishes in You and I:

1. A renewed knowledge and love for the Lord Jesus Christ:

- a. Knowledge of Jesus: Hebrews 13:8 *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* Do you have a true knowledge of the real Jesus? Not the Hollywood Jesus – no halo, no glowing, etc. They could never show the real Jesus. First of all, Jesus is the righteous and true judge. He is the provision for every need, the conqueror of all storms. He is God incarnate. He identified with the greatest need we had.

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- b. Love for Jesus: Revelation 2:4-5 *“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”* The Lord knew this church – it was the church of Ephesus. He commends them for many things, but he knew what they had done in their lives. He caused them to cast away from their idols and burn all related witchcraft materials, and then great persecution came against them. Through all this they were able to stand because of their great love for the Lord. When God saved them they put aside anything that would hinder them from worshipping. They also had faith that no matter what, God would provide for them. However, somewhere along the way something changed. Christ mentions that they had left their first love. He says YOU left. God didn’t pull away. When he says they left it, it doesn’t mean they lost it, but they lost the true intensity and passion that they had for him. He told them to go back where they left it. Have we become so busy with church stuff that we have left our intense love for the Lord that we once had? Church stuff will get in the way. Psalm 116:1 *“I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.”* Is He still your everything? Are we willing to set aside everything in order to serve Him? Can we say that we not only love the Lord, but that we are *in love* with the Lord? Are we in the position where we love the Lord but aren’t *in love* with Him? To be in love with Him means that there’s nothing above Him. It means that everything else is secondary. We need to inventory ourselves and search our hearts. Can we honestly and truly say that we are in love with Christ? Can you imagine what our lives would be like if He wasn’t in love with us? If we will get in love with him, there are things that He could do for you that the world can’t match. If we could just get in love with him to the point that when we don’t hear from him, we miss him. Have we gotten so complacent that we start our day, go to bed, and walk through every day without Him?