



HOSEA

Obedience, Not Sacrifice | October 11, 2026

Hosea 6:4-7:16 | Hosea calls out the Israelites for running to anything and anyone other than God. Hosea says, “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice”. What did that mean for the Israelites? What does that mean for us today?

SERMON OUTLINE

The Israelites have rebelled against God and there will be consequences. A lot like the prodigal son, they were running:

1. **Why do we run?**
 - a. For Security. If we don't feel secure we'll often allow a false security to be something we run to, especially when we can't protect ourselves
2. **What do we run to?**
 - a. Empty Religion (Hosea 7:14) They believed their habits and offerings would save them, and in doing so they worshipped the made thing and not the maker.
 - b. Idols (Hosea 3:1) Just like Gomer, the Israelites ran to idols of comfort and other gods to feel secure.
 - c. False Promises (Hosea 7:11) The Israelites ran to other political powers and false promises to find security from the consequences they were about to face.
3. **Who should we run to?**
 - a. Mercy in the Hebrew is *Hesed* which means steadfast love, loyalty, grace, and kindness
 - b. God promised that despite the consequences, that one day the messianic king would gather them and restore them.
 - c. With Jesus, we don't have to run to anything because Jesus runs to us.
 - d. In Jesus' mercy and sacrifice we never need to run anywhere else.

APPLICATION

1. **Read the story of Matthew being called to follow Jesus (Matthew 9:9-13)** *Jesus challenges the Pharisees to seek and understand “For I desire mercy, not sacrifice”. In what ways have you been more of a pharisee?*
2. **Read the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32)** *In what ways are you like the younger son? In what ways are you like the older son? Talk about the grace and love the father offers to both.*
3. **Have you been running?** *Take some time to pray and be open to where you have been running away from God. Repent where you need to repent and pray for God to make you whole where you may be broken. God is faithful!*