

HOSEA

Reaping the Whirlwind | *October 18, 2026*

Hosea 8 | Hosea warns against misplaced trust in alliances, idols, and self-reliance. What happens when we make decisions and make choices that are bound to fail and lead to fruitlessness?

SERMON OUTLINE

The Three Sins of Fruitless Sowing :

1. **The Folly of Manufactured Security (Hosea 8:1-6)**
    a. Israel falsely believed that because they were Jews, their politics and political alliances, and adopting false religion would rescue them from judgment.
    b. Relevant Scripture: Isaiah 64:6; Psalm 143:2.
2. **The Futility of Hollow Activity (Hosea 8:7-10)**
    a. Can you think of anything more depressing than the idea that, after you have done a great work, there is nothing to show for it in the end? Or what about the idea that you did all of this work and someone else, a stranger, will get to enjoy it?
    b. Relevant Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-6; Psalm 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17.
3. **The Frustration of Pointless Religion (Hosea 8:11-14)**
    a. Hosea returns to the dual sins of Israel, first, practicing false religions and, second, going through the motions with what should be their own true religion.
    b. Relevant Scripture: Psalm 51.

APPLICATION

1. **Distinguish True Spiritual Fruit from Mere Activity.** Ask yourself honestly: *Am I merely expending nervous religious energy, or is the Holy Spirit genuinely bearing fruit in my heart, speech, and relationships?*
2. **Stop Financing What Leaves You Empty**. Take an honest inventory of your greatest expenditures of time and anxiety this week. If the harvest of that investment has consistently yielded stress, comparison, and emptiness, name it for what it is: sowing the wind. Cut the losses on your modern Assyrian alliances and redirect that devotion toward communion with the Father.
3. **Reclaim God's Word Before Seeking God's Blessings**. Spiritual fruitfulness cannot be detached from remaining in the vine of Christ's Word (John 15:5). Stop treating the

Bible like optional background reading. Anchor your home, your decisions, and your daily schedule in the clear teaching of Scripture, trusting that obedience to God's revealed truth is the only soil where real, lasting life can grow.