

## **Hosea 1:1–11**

## **The Importance of Counting Our Blessings**

*The Prophetic Message can often sound foreign to our ears. Because they are descriptive and use poetry rather than proscriptive with its more familiar legal, contractual language, we can often struggle making sense of them. The mixing of positive comments alongside negative words can be difficult to navigate.*

*Yet, mixed messages are not all that foreign to us. We often take credit (and give credit to others) for work we did not perform. We often give blame (and receive it) for failures a person did not actually cause. Giving mixed messages to other humans is one thing. Giving God mixed messages is an entirely different matter altogether.*

***We can keep God central in our lives if we continually count His Blessings to Us!***

### ***Read Passage***

#### ***A. The End of the Story Does Matter! (Hosea 1:10–11)***

##### **1. Why do we focus on Negative Words?**

A. Our brain is constantly alert for dangers and threats. Negatives are dangers and threats.

##### **2. Why do we forget the Positive Words?**

A. Momentary affirmation is short-lived.

B. It can take 7 or more positive words to balance out 1 negative word in our mind.

##### **3. How does this relate to the Prophet's Message?**

A. We easily recall the negative meaning for the names of Hosea's children. (Hosea 1:4, 6, 9)

B. We easily forget the positive turn of events God is working to achieve. (Hosea 1:10, 11)

***B. What is the Problem?***

**1. The people forsake God (Hosea 1:2)**

**2. What have they actually done?**

A. They Credited gods of other peoples for Provisions Provided by the LORD God. (Hosea 2:5, 8)

B. They Failed to Recognize God's blessings to them

***C. What is God's Plan? (Hosea 2:14–20)***

**1. Continues to Seek His people (14)**

**2. Provides for her abundantly (15)**

1. Achor - From story of Achan in Joshua 7, trouble

**3. Restores the relationship (16)**

**4. Works to remove strife (17–18)**

**5. Commits to them once more (19–20)**

***D. What is the Final Result? (Hosea 2:21–23)***

**1. God will reclaim Jezreel**

**2. God will have compassion**

**3. God will reclaim his people**

**We can keep God central in our lives if we continually count His Blessings to Us!**

**Problems arise when we forget the source of our Blessings.**

**God's call to Return can sound negative**

**God's purpose is Reconciliation**

**God's Blessings are too Magnificent to describe fully.**