

METAPHORS OF A WHORE

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's people down through the ages have had a tendency to forget who they are, and to whom they belong.
2. In considering the feelings of God, we need to recognize that we are treading on Holy Ground.

I. THE PROPHETS ACCUSED ISRAEL OF PROSTITUTION.

1. The shocking notion of a harlot being stripped, mocked and exposed to the contempt of her lovers is inspired by the Spirit of God.

2. THE PROPHETS SAID THAT ISRAEL PLAYED THE WHORE:

A. Ezekiel 16:1-30 (Read the KJ Text)

B. This Whore Even Paid Her Lovers

(1) Ezek. 16:31-34. "In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as a harlot in that thou scornest hire; But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband. They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom."

3. Isaiah Also Speaks Of Israel As A Whore:

A. Isay 1:2-4, 21-23

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. How is the faithful city become a harlot, it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards; they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

NOTE: Isaiah talks about Jerusalem's whoredom, his specific charges concern the adulteration of precious metals and watering down of alcoholic beverages. He goes on to accuse Jerusalemites of bribery, corruption and murder. The men and women of his day, then, were guilty of commercial dishonesty (exploitation of the consumer) legal corruption and violent oppression.

Does This sound like some modern Business Practices?

4. The Holy Spirit's inspiration of a term like harlot, whore, or prostitute is designed to sting people into shocked awareness that their sins enrage God because his people have forgotten who they are and to whom they rightly belong.

5. Jeremiah Is Graphic When He Describes The Whore.

- A. Jer. 13:26-27 "I myself will lift up your skirts over your face, and your shame will be seen. I have seen your abominations, your adulteries, and neighings, your lewd harlotries, on the hills in the field."

Note: He piles one phrase on another in an attempt to emphasize how wretched, how shameful Judah's behavior had been... What comes through overwhelmingly is God's reprehension * for what his people are doing.

9. The chosen people, the privileged possessors of the Law and of the mercy seat are fooling with petty little demons. They are violating their covenant relationship with God, oblivious to their heinous offense of forgetting the Most High. Here was the horror of the betrayal of a sacred relationship. God's people had forgotten who they were, and to whom they belonged.

6. Hosea's Wife Gomer Was A Whore, Or Became One Later.

- A. God's Love For Israel And Hosea's Love For Gomer.
B. Hosea 2:9-10 "Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof, and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness. And now will I discover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and none shall deliver her out of mine hand."
C. Hosea 3:1-2 "Go again, love a woman who is beloved of a paramour and is an adulteress; even as the Lord loves the people of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins. So, I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and lethech of barley."

Note: Hosea gives the fullest and most complete picture of God's attitude in the face of harlotry. Once again we find terms like harlot and adulteress used synonymously and interchangeably. Harlotry is in fact defined as forsaking God. Truly, God's people had forgotten who they were, and to whom they belonged.

D. SO, THE PROPHETS REFLECT GOD'S ATTITUDE:

"I myself will lift up your skirts over your face, and your shame will be seen." (Jer. 13:26)

"I will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see your nakedness." (Ezek. 16:37)

"Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall rescue her out of my hand." (Hosea 2:9-10)

* 7. Israel Was To Have Been A Light To The Nations.

Yet, spiritual idolatry, coupled with many other sins, caused her to forget - who they were - and to whom they belonged.

II. IN JESUS' DAY THE PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS PROSTITUTED RELIGION TO THE GOD OF MATERIALISM.

A. Jesus Made A Whip And Threw Them Out Of The Temple.

1. John 2:13-17 "The Jewish passover was approaching and Jesus made the journey up to Jerusalem. In the temple-precincts he discovered cattle and sheep dealers and dove-sellers, as well as money changers, sitting at their tables. So he made a whip out of cords and drove the whole lot of them out of the Temple. He sent the coins of the money-changers flying and turned their tables upside down. Then he said to the dove-sellers. 'Take those things out of here. Don't you dare turn my Father's house into a market'". (Phillips)
2. The King James says, "a house of merchantdise."
3. Mark 11:17 "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den or robbers."

Note: The religious leaders were trafficking in coins and animals. All of it was self serving. They had forgotten who they were - and to whom they belonged./

III. MODERN CHURCHES HAVE BECOME MATERIALISTIC WHORES:

A. C.S. Lewis in his book, The Abolition of Man, Charges some modern educators with desensitizing children to things in life which ought to awaken respect, awe and reverence. He quotes Plato, who describes a well-nutured youth:

"who would see most clearly whatever was amiss in ill-made works of man or ill-grown works of nature, and with a just distaste would blame and hate the ugly even from his earliest years and would give delighted praise to beauty, receiving it into his soul and being nourished by it, so that he becomes a man of gentle heart. All of this before he is of the age to reason; so that when reason comes to him, then, bred as he has been, he will hold out his hands in welcome and recognize her because of the affinity he bears to her."

(Plato, The Republic)

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Note

1. "We must agree that an encounter with God should awaken in us awe, reverance, worship and adoration. There is an ordinate response to God, and he who lacks it, who is desensitized to glory, and in whom wonder and fear are no longer awakened, is greatly to be pitied. He who does not tremble before the radiance of glory will be tone deaf to desecration"

B. John White has well written:

"When Jesus shipped the irreligious garbage from the Temple precincts, it was the hub of a system of worship which alone could claim to show people a way to the knowledge of the Holy. It was a place where a human being might experience an encounter with their maker.

"They had become sponsors of cheap buys on pigeons, They had exploited the yearnings of the humble and meek, turning them into a means of gain."

C. This Material Prostitution Takes A Number Of Routes:

- 1. T-shirts, Pencils, Bumper Stickers (Honk if you love Jesus, etc)

White asks this question:

"But I ask, Who made the shirt? Was he concerned with making an honest profit on the manufacture and sale of the garment? How did he himself feel about the blessed name of Jesus? Was he really trying to combine an honest living with a chance to honor the name of Jesus, or was he an opportunist, seizing the chance of making a few more bucks by exploiting a cheap and silly fad?"

Radio

- 2. The so-called FREE books, tapes, records via Television.

- a. Nothing in life is free, and the Christian "hustlers" know this very well.

- 3. Church Owned-Controlled Real Estate, Insurance, Banks,

- a. Roman Catholics, Mormons, Christian Science, OTHERS

- (1) Pre-ferred stocks, out-right ownership.

- b. Sell-and-lease-back arrangements.

- (1) Someone says, "Well, it's legal."

- b. It is generally known in federal political circles and among black nation leaders that the present President of the Mormon church "got a special revelation from God" to admit blacks to the Mormon priesthood because the Internal Revenue Service has suggested that they might have to take a closer look into Mormon commercial ventures.

*Recent
Past Pres.*

- 4. Colossal Religious Begging By Mail.

- a. Experience has taught experts how to open one's billfold. People are more likely to give if you enclose a prepaid envelope and blank check. The letter (or booklet or folder) must arrest their attention. It must be easy to read. It must make them see how much you appreciate their interest, how important your contributions will be.

In using commercial gimmicks to raise money, you are treating Christians the same way behavioral psychologists treat trained rats.

- b. Phillips, in his translation of 2 Cor. 4:1-2

etc
"This is the ministry of the New Agreement which God in His mercy has given us, and nothing can daunt us. We use no hocus/pocus, no clever tricks, no dishonest manipulation of the word of God. We speak the plain truth and so commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God."

Conclusion:

- A. In a world of crass materialism, let us remember that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. Let us remember: WHO WE ARE, AND TO WHOM WE BELONG.