

MARRIAGE, FAMILY + RELATIONSHIPS

Restoration from the Underground | Joshua 7 + Hosea 2

God wants to redeem shame that extends beyond individuals · Joshua 7

"He brought his household near man by man; and Achan, son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, from the tribe of Judah, was taken." Joshua 7:18

- **Our shame causes us to go underground with our sin**
"Truly, I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel, and this is what I did...then I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are concealed in the earth inside my tent with the silver underneath it." Joshua 7:20-21
- **Our shame brings trouble upon more than just us**
"Then Joshua and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, the silver, the mantle, the bar of gold, his sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent and all that belonged to him; and they brought them up to the valley of Achor. Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The Lord will trouble you this day." Joshua 7:24-25

Our valley of trouble is God's door of hope · Hosea 2

"Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope." Hosea 2:15

- **God meets us and loves us in the midst of our wilderness experiences**
"Therefore, behold, I will allure her, bring her into the wilderness and speak kindly to her." Hosea 2:14
- **Beauty from ashes and freedom from shame**
"Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt." Hosea 2:15

What we can offer the world today is the hope of Jesus in the wilderness of their troubles

"Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope." Hosea 2:15

- **Hope in the 'Midbar' (271x) - Kind of desert you can survive in, shepherds find grazing for their sheep**
"Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert (midbar)." Isaiah 35:6
- **Hope in the 'T'siyah' (16x) - Survivable, but you would need help. Translated as 'sun-scorched.'**
"He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert (t'siyah) like a river." Psalm 105:41
- **Hope in the 'Yeshimon' (13x) - Wilderness in which no one can survive.**
"O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness (yeshimon)." Psalm 68:7

Digging Deeper:

(Adapted from "Good Faith" by David Kinnaman)

Good conversations about our faith can begin with hospitality. As you go throughout the Middle East, this pattern of life is not only a way of life; it is a necessity for survival. Themes of welcoming, celebrating and humanizing the stranger come up over and over again. Our culture today has replaced good, old-fashioned hospitality with technology and convenience. What is listed amongst the spiritual gifts has been outsourced out of our Christian communities and relegated to industry. Perhaps because it is so rare in our times, hospitality beautifully expresses God's vision for human relationships.

One way to practice hospitality is to express interest in others. It is easy to talk about yourself. But try asking more questions than you are asked in your conversations. It's a simple but profound truth: people enjoy sharing about themselves, and it helps them feel welcome and special. Difficult conversations can be a little less imposing if we make it our goal to really get to know the other person. In a culture that emphasizes fast meals, online friendships, and casual hookups, hospitality is a truly countercultural experience.

Our world hungers for healthy friendships, marriages, and families. These are wonderful gifts that are deeply needed, but we can offer something even better. Hospitality creates households of faith where every person can belong. Knowing the need for hospitality, especially in the desert places, the church should be the safest place on earth for hurting people to receive love and grace. A hospital for sinners, not a hotel for saints, as the quote goes. Unfortunately, for many, it isn't. Use the discussion questions below to work through how we can become a people who bring others to Jesus.

Join us this Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall for **Common Ground Conversations** to dig deeper into this week's message and walk through some of the items that hit the "cutting room floor." We will have a panel discussion with pastors & special guests. Discover more at calvarylife.org/series

LifeGroup Discussion:

If the idea of hospitality feels a bit strange in our current culture, we must remember that it is rooted in Christian theology.

"The people of God are aliens and strangers whom God has welcomed into the 'household of faith.' In turn, God's people are to 'make room' for the stranger, not only in the community of faith, but also in their own personal households." - David P. Gushee

Who is your marriage, family or friendship making room for?

What realms of your life do you hold shame? Personally? In your marriage? In your family? In your singleness? Who knows about it? Do you have safe community to bring this to and find restoration?

Have you ever been restored and redeemed from an area in your life that once brought you shame? How did it happen? Did you ever try to find healing in a community only to have it backfire? What was the experience like?

What does this passage tell you about the heart of God toward you?

"Then I will give her her vineyards from there, and the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, as in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt." Hosea 2:15

Next Steps:

1. **Join us for Common Ground Conversations this Wednesday at 7pm:** Come dig deeper into each Sunday's sermon through panel discussion with pastors and special guests. See weekly topics at calvarylife.org/series
2. **Get Connected at the LifeGroup Fair in the Lobby today:** Meet LifeGroup leaders and find a group you can grow with in the Worship Center Lobby after today's service. calvarylife.org/lifegroups
3. **Follow Up With A Great Book:** "Families Where Grace Is In Place" by Jeff VanVonderen. This book is available for purchase in Calvary's Corner Bookstore.