

## **Sermon Handout**

### Disdaining the Mercy of God

#### Hosea 6:1-11

- I. The People's False Repentance** vv. 1-4
- a. God separates himself from them 5:15
  - b. A ritual declaration of penitence vv. 1-3 *cf.* Jer 14:7-12
    - i. God has torn us; he will heal us
    - ii. God has struck us; he will bandage us
    - iii. God will revive and raise us up soon *cf.* Isa 26:14, 19
    - iv. Therefore, let us return to him v. 1a
  - c. God's immediate response v. 4
    - i. "What am I to do with you?" (Israel & Judah)
    - ii. "Your loyalty is *will o' the wisp.*" (clouds & dew) *contra* v. 3b
- II. God's Indictment of the People** vv. 5-6
- a. Due to Israel's fickleness, I have: (vv. 4-5)
    - i. Punished them by the prophets (intended for discipline)
    - ii. Slain them with my words *cf.* Isa 11:4
    - iii. Judgments have shined light on them, pointing to truth  
*This leads directly to what follows:*
  - b. I require true sacrifice (mercy, knowledge of God), not mere ritual v. 6
    - i. Asserted by Samuel I Sam 15:22
    - ii. Cited by David Ps 51:17
    - iii. Demanded by Micah Mi 6:6-8
    - iv. Quoted by Jesus Mt 9:13; 12:7
- III. Specifications of the Indictment** vv. 7-11 (*cf.* 5:1-2, 8)
- a. Treachery at Admah v. 7 *cf.* 11:8
  - b. Pollution at Gilead (Mizpah) v. 8
  - c. Murder at Shechem v. 9 (City of Refuge Josh 21:21) *cf.* 7:1-2  
*See also* Gen 12:6-7; 33:18ff
  - d. All Israel shares in the guilt v. 10 (it is defiled)
  - e. God promises ultimate restoration v. 11 *cf.* 1:8-11
- IV. Lessons for the Church**
- a. Idolatry of any sort is a threat to our souls.
  - b. Escape from sin's consequence is not through empty confession (v. 6).
  - c. Through the blood of Christ (Covenant of Grace) there is redemption.