

16 kids and counting

- Fascinating / scary TV programme of Channel 4 this week...
 - 16 kids and counting...
- Family tells you something about people, about their priorities, their character, their humour...

Meet the family

Hosea (v.1...)

- Know very little in some ways...
- Israel/north, 8th century BC, affluence for Israel and Judah, but affluence held by the wealthy, not shared with poor.
 - Hosea concentrates on the people, particularly the leadership's, unfaithfulness in idolatry - which runs alongside their injustice to their fellow Israelites

Wife: Gomer (v.2-3)

- Quite an introduction! "Adulterous wife"

Son: Jezreel (v.3-5)

- ("*Children of unfaithfulness*" - *another man's kids?*)
- Place name - unjust massacre!
 - regular place of battle, because of geography (cf Stirling!)
- Sin, the problem
 - and punished in the place of the sin, punishment fitting the crime...

Daughter: Lo-Ruhamah (v.6-7)

- "Not shown compassion"
- Judgement
 - but glimmer of salvation... (v.7) for a remnant, a subset, from the south

Daughter: Lo-Ammi (v.8-9)

- "Not my people"
- Rejection, because of sin

Study in Contrasts

- Faithfulness - marriage - and unfaithfulness...
- Hope (v.10-11) and Despair (v.1-9)
- God and idols

Willing?

- Willing to let our lives be used?
- Willing to hear a hard call, away from something good or into something difficult?
- Willing to let God redeem that which is broken...?
- And willing to be faithful to God throughout our lives?
- *Have we ever known God speak in symbolic actions?*