

Family stories (vs.1-4)

- Rehearsing roots - in families, in relationships in general...
 - back to foundations, back to the basis on which relationship built
- God, through Hosea, takes Israel back to her roots:
 - to God's love for Israel, his initiative in seeking Israel out
 - to God's rescue of Israel from Egypt
 - to the call to be distinct from the nations
 - to the action in his - the **CORDS OF HUMAN KINDNESS** - of God's interventions on behalf of his people, rescuing from invader, lifting famines...
- Implying the question that pokes through in v.2 and v.3:
 - **who moved?**
 - because it wasn't God...

Consequences, Consequences (vs.5-7)

- Passage that again makes me think of the parent of someone with addiction issues:
 - loving them, but also seeing and fearing the consequences of their course of action
- Here God through Hosea wonders whether Israel will return to Egypt or Assyria:
 - slavery, not freedom
 - destruction, not peace
 - rejection, not returning to God...
- Some of the hardest funerals I've ever conducted have been of those who died from overdoses:
 - particularly ones where I've sat with a grieving mother, and sometimes father, and they are wondering what they could have done differently to save their son or daughter...
 - but knowing, deep down, whose choice that lifestyle had been...

Never going to give you up (vs.8-11)

- Rickrolling
 - "Never gonna give you up..."
- This is where book of Hosea - indeed whole Scriptural witness - is so utterly incredible:
 - **God doesn't give up**
 - he holds back his blazing judgement, despite his holiness
 - restoration **is** possible, despite everything
 - miracles do happen
- *Cammy McKenzie, Bob Mallinson, Steph McLeod... many others*

You, me....

- There's nothing you can do to make God love you more; there's nothing you can do to make God love you less. (**Philip Yancey**)