

Invitation (v.1,2)

- "Return..."
 - this is who God is.... **holy** (else what is sin), yet **gracious**
 - this is how he deals with us too, not just people of Israel from long ago
 - modelled in the relationship and attitude and direction Hosea took with his wife Gomer (**images of Hosea and Gomer**)

Response (v.2,3)

- "I am going the wrong way - I need to turn around..."
 - Arthur's Seat story... (**image**)
 - can be something less apparently dramatic, like getting out the habit of daily bible reading and prayer...
 - recognition that this pattern of living **cannot save me and a turning away from whatever it is...**

Reward (v.4-9)

- What blessings flow from the change in direction:
 - healing (v.4)
 - "foundness" (v.4) (as opposed to waywardness)
 - love (v.4)
 - release from judgement (v.4)
 - life-bringing water and refreshment (dew) (v.5)
 - flowering, beauty (v.5)
- Whole Cedar of Lebanon picture:
 - image of life
 - rootedness - safety, prosperity... (v.5/6)
 - attractiveness - splendour and fragrance (v.6)
 - protection, shade (v.7)
 - **fruitfulness...** (v.7)
- Marriage vows re-taken (**image**)

Our Response

- What has God been saying to us through Hosea: (**4x text reveals**)
 - what have we learned about Him?
 - what have we learned about ourselves?
 - what invitation has God made to us for change?
 - how will we respond to that invitation?