When Hesed Is Missing

Hosea 4:1-3 (ESV)

Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel, for the LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and all who dwell in it languish, and also the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens, and even the fish of the sea are taken away.

Three essentials for the land:

* Faithfulness
* Steadfast Love
* Knowledge of God

“The LORD has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land”

Controversy = case, charge, contention, accusation

Message = God indicts the whole population: “No one is faithful. No one loves. No one know the first thing about God.”

Controversy with the conversation: swearing, lying

Controversy with the social contracts: murder, stealing

Controversy with the covenant: commit adultery

God points to the commandments most concerned with our interactions with others

Vertical Commandments

Horizontal Commandments

God’s lawsuit reveals two realities of sin:

#1 There are no small sins

James 2:10-11 (ESV)

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

#2 There is a dramatic impact from your sin

Genesis 3:17-19 (ESV)

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The result of *moral* sin is *physical* pain and suffering

The chain reaction of each individual sin leads to an explosion of suffering and a radiation of sorrow that lasts for generations

2 Timothy 3:1-8 (ESV)

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.

How Are We To Live In The Fallout Of So Much Sin?

See and Seek

Hosea 5:13-15 (ESV)

When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound. For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me.

Psalm 83:16 (ESV)

Fill their faces with shame, that they may seek your name, O LORD.

We need to see the suffering of our sin if we are to truly seek the face of Jesus

Luke 12:57-59 (ESV)

And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.

Luke 13:1-5 (ESV)

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do not think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

“Until sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.” – Thomas Watson

Acknowledge what is keeping you from Jesus, give it up, and follow Him