

Are We “Cakes Not Turned?”

Lesson Text :(**Hosea 7:8**)

INTRODUCTION:

- 1- A lesson text can take our minds to many places in the Bible:
 - a- To the banks of a river – Lydia in Acts 16.
 - b- To a high mountain – The transfiguration in Matthew 17.
 - c- To a beautiful valley – Valley of Elah in 1 Samuel 17 (David killed Goliath).
 - d- To a quaint little village – Nain Luke 7:11.
 - e- To a large city – Antioch – Acts 11:26 – Disciples first called Christians.
 - f- To the tabernacle or temple, to an enchanting land like Egypt to a holy city like Jerusalem.

Transition: But for this study, our lesson text takes us back to the kitchen of a woman in Israel some 2700 to 2800 years ago and written by the prophet Hosea during the days of Hezekiah.

(**Hosea 7:8**) *“Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned.”*

Discuss:

- I- **The background:**
 - A- Five of those twelve words tell us that “Ephraim is a cake unturned. Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; “Ephraim has become a cake not turned.”
 - 1- Hosea uses this terminology to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Northern Kingdom . . . and it was dire.
 - 2- Ephraim, the largest tribe of the rebellious ten, is sometimes used to refer to the Northern Kingdom as a whole.
 - B- Israel’s 209 year history was near an end that would come in 721 B.C. at the hands of Assyria. Who was this prophet who penned this spiritual cooking lesson . . . and what truth was he serving up to the people.
 - 1- **HOSEA** was contemporary with Isaiah and Micah. A long prophetic career of some forty-five years spanned the last six kings of the Northern Kingdom.
 - 2- The Book of Hosea spans about forty years of prophetic ministry.
 - 3- God calls Hosea to prophesy during Israel’s last hours as a nation. God would call Jeremiah to do the same in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
 - 4- As one commentator has noted: “What we see in the prophecy of Hosea are the last swirls as the kingdom of Israel goes down the drain.”
 - C- The Book of Hosea represents God’s last gracious effort to plug the drain.
 - 1- Israel may have given up on God . . . but God had not given up on Israel.
 - 2- Every erring brother and every erring sister needs to realize that Biblical truth.
 - D- Hosea uses **metaphors and images** in upbraiding the people for their:
 - 1- Lying, Ingratitude, murder, idolatry, insincerity and covetousness.
 - 2- Nonetheless, his messages are punctuated with consolation and future hope.
- II- **THE COOKING LESSON.**
 - A- 6 of the 5,175 words that make up the Book of Hosea tell us: **“Ephraim is a cake not turned.”** What sort of a cake is that?
 - 1- The sort of cake, to which Ephraim is here likened, "uggah."

- 2- **NOTE:** literally, "circular," was a thin pancake, to which a scorching heat was applied on one side; sometimes by means of hot charcoal heaped upon it; sometimes, (it is thought,) the fire was within the earthen jar, around which the thin dough was fitted. If it remained long "unturned," it was burned on the one side; while it continued unbaked, doughy, , on the other; the fire spoiling, not penetrating it through.
- 3- Such were the people. Picture with me, if you would, in the East, having heated the hearth, they sweep one corner, put the cake upon it, and cover it with embers; in a short time they turn it, cover it again, and continue this several times, till they find it sufficiently baked. In fact, a cake burnt on one side and unbaked on the other, and so inedible: That is the image of the worthlessness of Ephraim.
- 4- **ILLUSTRATION:** Pancakes - Bubbles on the uncooked side. **Hosea uses this "cake not turned" to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Northern Kingdom.**

- B- They had mingled themselves with the nations . . . and yet, at the same time they considered themselves to be the consecrated people of God.
 - 1- They worshipped idols . . . and they worshipped God.
 - 2- There is the sense that their theology was "half baked." Unfortunately, their "cake not turned" description and condition must be studied in light of its seriousness today.

III- A CHRISTIAN CAN BE A "CAKE NOT TURNED" Note some of the following ways:

- A- A Christian may be "well done" in the **outward show of religion** but "raw and doughy" in **inward religion**.
 - 1- (Matthew 15:8) - *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honour Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*
 - 2- (Matthew 23:25-28) - *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee; first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."*
 - 3- Ready to serve on the outside . . . not fully ready on the inside. When it comes to inward religion, many are "Cakes not turned."
- B- A Christian may be "Well done" in **hearing** but "raw and doughy" in **doing**.
 - 1- (James 1:22-25) - *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*
 - 2- . Ready to serve on the outside . . . not fully ready on the inside.
 - a- When it comes to doing, to working, many brethren are "Cakes not turned."

- b- A Christian may be “Well done” in **Sunday morning attendance** but “raw and doughy” in **Wednesday night attendance** and other opportunities for further spiritual growth.
- c- When it comes to attending faithfully, many brethren are “Cakes not turned.”
- 3- A Christian may be “half-baked” in the sense of being a **friend of the world** while trying to be the **friend of God**.
 - a- **(James 4:4)** - *“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”*
 - b- James is saying that we can’t have it both ways. Israel tried . . . and Israel failed.
- 4- A Christian may be “Well done” in the sense of **“Laying up treasures on earth”** but “raw and doughy” **In laying up treasures in Heaven.”**
 - a- Jesus discusses this in Luke 12:13-21.
 - b- People want possessions . . . God wants people. **DOOM AND DESTRUCTION ARE THE FATE OF HALF-BAKED “CAKES NOT TURNED.”**
 - c- It was so then . . . It is so today. As was Ephraim in its half-baked condition, so are “cakes not turned” today.\
- C- (Hosea 7:12-13) - *“Wherever they go, I will spread My net on them; I will bring them down like birds of the air; I will chastise them According to what their congregation has heard. Woe to them, for they have fled from Me! Destruction to them, because they have transgressed against Me! Though I redeemed them, Yet they have spoken lies against Me.”*
 - 1- A “cake not turned” Would not be chosen... cannot be served... if served it will not be eaten.
 - 2- Half baked is synonymous with lukewarm. Cakes not turned are not palatable physically or spiritually. (Revelation 3:16) - *“I will spew you out of my mouth.”*
 - 3- A tragedy in such a situation is that such a condition makes one insensitive to his situation. They think everything is fine. **(Hosea 7:9)** - *“Aliens have devoured his strength, but he does not know it; yes, gray hairs are here and there on him, Yet he does not know it. “ Therein lies the tragedy . . . **“He does not know it.”***

IV- HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM BEING “CAKES NOT TURNED?”

- A- Realize that with the Lord it is all or . . . It is nothing!
 - 1- **(Matthew 6:24)** - *“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. “*
 - 2- **(Luke 9:62)** - *“But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*
- B- Pay more attention to things spiritual.
 - 1- Grow in the ways God wants you to grow. Avoid the things God would have you to avoid.
 - 2- . Never compromise your faith, and never compromise your faithfulness.
 - 3- . Begin today to replace half-hearted, half-attendance with whole-hearted attendance of ALL the services. Hebrews 10:25.

- 4- Be hearers yes . . . then be doers with all your might. (**Romans 2:13**) -
“For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified.” Be the complete person . . . be the complete Christian . . . be the complete servant of God.

CONCLUSION:

- 1- If you realize that you are a “cake not turned,” then turn, repent of half baked service to Christ.
- 2- **Hosea 7:8** - “Ephraim mixes himself with the nations; Ephraim has become a cake not turned.” There is a standard of purity . . . there is a standard of faithfulness . . . there is a standard of obedience which God expects of His children.
- 3- The people of Israel had intermarried with foreign people and had picked up their evil ways.
- 4- When we spend a lot of time with people, we can easily pick up their attitudes and begin to imitate their actions. When you work, live, or play with those who are not children of God, beware of the influence they may have on you.
- 5- That influence will be taken back to you home and family . . . to your spouse . . . your children . . . your grandchildren. That influence will be taken back to your congregation. That influence may lead you to become a “Cake not turned.”
- 6- Instead of drifting into bad habits, see if you can have a positive influence and point those people to God.
- 7- Faithfulness honours God God honours faithfulness. Everything comes to him who waits Except the precious time lost waiting.

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NPLY 6/2010