

Sermon Description:

What's in a name? This is famously asked by Juliet regarding her beloved Romeo. The insinuation is he would be the same person if he were not a "Montague." In other words, a name means nothing. Yet, this week's passage has a different answer to that question. What's in a name? Everything! It has everything to do with this story in Hosea. And it has everything to do with the church. Truly, there is a name which is unlike any other name. It means *everything*!

Main Passage: Hosea 1:3-2:1

Title: What's in a name? Everything!

Topics: Life & Culture>New Creation>Identity

Tags: love, loneliness, alienation, name, identity

Gospel Application/Question:

Have you identified yourself with the name of Jesus Christ?

How does this identity – this forever and faithful love and name of Christ – help you amidst life's challenges?

Introduction

What's in a name? Asked by Juliet regarding Romeo

The book of Hosea

There is a difference between preaching this book and counseling someone (like Hosea, Gomer, or one of their children).

Last week:

- Hosea 1:1-2
- Where are we within the timeline of the Bible? In the Old Testament between the days of the united kingdom under Saul/David/Solomon and the Exile where the Israelites are kicked out of the Promised Land on account of their sin
- Hosea is directed to take a wife of many lovers(!!!)
- Application:
 - Have you ever compared sin to marital unfaithfulness?
 - Amidst our repeated unfaithfulness, how great is the faithfulness which God has shown us?

This week:

- What's in a name? Hosea 1:3-9
- The hope for a new name. Hosea 1:10-2:1
- The name above all names

What's in a name?

The firstborn – A son!

- Name him “Jezreel” – For more on Jezreel, see footnote¹.
- What happened at Jezreel? Essentially, in Jezreel, a man named Jehu was sent to deliver God’s judgment against the household of Ahab, who had been a wicked king. Jehu didn’t execute justice only up to the point God instructed. He went beyond. And this was a problem.
- “Jezreel” literally means “To plant or sow.” Given the context, it seems to be saying that “God will uproot” the Israelites that Hosea is prophesying against if they do not return to the Lord.
- Not only this, God will break their bow as if to say, “They will be defenseless” against God’s judgment. A foreign nation, called Assyria, will come and expel the Israelites from the land.

A secondborn – A daughter!

- Name her “Lo-Ruhamah” or “unloved”
- We don’t know whether or not Hosea is the father.

¹ **1:4. Jehu’s massacre at Jezreel.** Elisha had originally sanctioned the political revolution that brought Jehu to the throne (see 2 Kings 9:6–10). The speech made by the “son of the prophet” who anoints Jehu calls on him to avenge the blood of slain prophets by exterminating Ahab’s entire house, including his wife Jezebel. Jehu does this, first killing King Joram in battle (2 Kings 9:24) as well as King Ahaziah of Judah (2 Kings 9:27). After marching on the city of Jezreel, he calls on the populace to choose sides, and Jezebel is thrown from a balcony to her death (2 Kings 9:32–33). A general purge of Ahab’s “house,” which is a euphemism for his political supporters and government officials, then takes place. At Jehu’s orders the terrified officials in Jezreel behead seventy “sons of the house of Ahab” (2 Kings 10:6–8). The next day Jehu publicly denied any responsibility for the deaths of these seventy men and used this as a pretext to have all of the officials executed (2 Kings 10:9–11). It is this mass bloodletting, which swept away the dynasty and supporters of Ahab, that is the basis for the symbolic name for Hosea’s first son. The name thereby becomes a reminder to the current ruler, a descendant of Jehu, that his dynasty will be held accountable for Jehu’s murderous activities. It may also be forecasting a similar bloody end to that dynasty in the face of Syrian encroachment and the expansion of Assyrian hegemony in the region.

1:5. Valley of Jezreel. This extremely fertile (the name means “God sows”) and strategic valley allows for movement east and west through the hill country of northern Samaria and the lower Galilee from Beth Shan on the east to Acco on the Mediterranean coast. Omri and Ahab had established a second capital at Jezreel because of its strategic and economic importance. Naturally the valley also became the battleground for armies that wished to control the region. A number of famous battles were fought here, the first of which is recorded in the annals of Pharaoh Thutmose III (1504–1450). For more information see comment on Judges 6:33. Victor Harold Matthews, Mark W. Chavalas, and John H. Walton, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*, electronic ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), Ho 1:4–5.

- Recall the distinction I made earlier about preaching vs. counseling.
- This would be shocking for an Israelite to hear. How could it be said of them that they are “unloved”?
 - They would have claimed the name of God and their presence in the Promised Land as evidence that they are loved of the Lord.
 - God responds saying “But you have not loved me. You have pursued many other lovers. Though I have loved you and been faithful to you, my faithfulness has been responded to with unfaithfulness.”
 - It echoes that no weapon will keep the likes of Judah in the Promised Land—only the Lord can save!

A thirdborn – A son!

- Call him “Lo Ammi” or “Not my people”
- Again, this would have shocked. If anything, Israel believed they, and they alone, were the people of God.
- To be regarded by the Lord as “not my people” would have brought degrees of shame, disgrace, pain, hurt, embarrassment, etc.

Consider the names this people have known:

- Previously
 - Israel = wrestle/prevail
 - Judah = Thanksgiving/praise
- Currently
 - Jezreel = God plants (uproots)
 - Lo-Ruhamah = Unloved
 - Lo-Ammi = Not my people

THANKFULLY, there is hope for a new name, a better name

Verse 10 would call to mind the promises given to Abraham. It feels like God is saying, “Though you are currently called ‘not my people’ I will one day rename you yet again as ‘my people.’”

How could this be?

1:11-2:1 – Unity // Leader // Jezreel // My brothers, My people, My sisters, My loved one

- The future naming
 - Said to Lo-Ammi (not my people) ==> “Children of the living God”
 - “My people” and “My beloved”

The name above all names

Philippians 2:8–11

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and **gave him the name**

that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 1:9–13

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, **to those who believed in his name**, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Matthew 12:47–50

⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”
⁴⁸ He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven **is my brother and sister** and mother.”

Romans 10:11

¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him **will never be put to shame.**”

Jesus is the true and better Israel, Judah, Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, Lo-Ammi

What's in a name? If it's the name of Jesus – EVERYTHING!

Questions:

- Have you identified yourself with the name of Jesus Christ?
- How does this identity – within the forever and faithful love and name of Jesus Christ – help you amidst life's challenges?
 - When *feeling* and *facing* struggle, even defeat.
 - When experiencing victory.
 - When *feeling* uprooted in a certain area of life.
 - When *feeling* unloved or cast off.

Never forget the name of Jesus and what he has done!!

1 Peter 2:10

¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;

once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

What's in a name?





HOSEA

Preaching vs. Counseling

BIBLE TIMELINE

OLD TESTAMENT



NEW TESTAMENT



CREATION

PATRIARCH

EXODUS

CONQUEST

JUDGES

KINGDOM

EXILE

RETURN

SILENCE

GOSPELS

CHURCH

MISSIONS

FUTURE

Hosea 1:1-2:1

¹ The word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel: ² When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.”

An outline of today's message

- 1 What's in a name? Hosea 1:3-9
- 2 The hope for a new name – Hosea 1:10-2:1
- 3 The name above all names

What's in a name?

Hosea 1:3-9

³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son. ⁴ Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

What's in a name?

Hosea 1:3–9

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them – not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them.”

What's in a name?

Hosea 1:3–9

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the LORD said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

There's a sequence of naming

Scene 1

Israel = Wrestle/Prevail

Judah = Thanksgiving/Praise

There's a sequence of naming

Scene 2

Jezreel = God plants (uproots?)

Lo-Ruhamah = Not loved

Lo-Ammi = Not my people

The hope for a new name

Hosea 1:10-2:1

¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’

The hope for a new name

Hosea 1:10-2:1

¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. ¹ “Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’”

There's a sequence of naming

Scene 3

Lo-Ammi – Not my people ==>
Children of the living God

People of Judah and Israel ==>
Leader to brothers/sister:
My people, My loved one

The name above all names

Philippians 2:8-11

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within the forever and faithful
love and name of Jesus Christ –
help you amidst life's challenges?

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