Marriage and Family Counseling

Case Study: Forgiveness

The family of Hosea is totally broken through the willful acts of Gomer the wife. She has been unfaithful to her

marriage vows and in her unfaithfulness has conceived a child and or children. There is a possibility that she will be

returning to her husband but the counselor is going to have to incorporate biblical patterns of forgiveness in the

counseling sessions

Forgiveness is a very difficult hurdle for the counselor to guide his / her counselee through and therefore several

biblical truths must be dealt with. Utilize the lesson on forgiveness and apply it to several counseling sessions that

will involve Hosea’s family, which can include the children

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There are two initial truths in dealing with Hurts which are: (List them and incorporate them into your first counseling

session with the Hosea family)

• Hurts usually make one see…

• Hurts usually make one set…

o In setting limits of forgiveness one needs to make sure that one is presenting a biblical model of forgiveness, which

is not necessarily what may seem to be Generous or even Spiritual but that which is Biblical -

2.

There are two foundational truths of forgiveness which are: (List them and incorporate them into your second

counseling session with the Hosea family)

• Forgiveness is…

• Forgiveness has active…

o These active ingredients are: (Address these ingredients to the Hosea family within the second session)

 First

 Second

 Third

 Fourth

this is what I wrote in another paper that might be helpful; Forgiveness and How it is Achieved

The example Hosea shows is a different kind of picture from what forgiveness is from the norm. Usually, the person

in the wrong approaches the other and requires their mercy. They show remorse for their actions and ask for

forgiveness and restoration of the relationship. However, in Hosea's case, he continually goes after his wife and tries

to redeem their relationship. He goes ahead to pay the price to get her out of the temple of Baal, where she had

become a slave and forced into prostitution. In Mathew chapter 18:21 to 22, Jesus tells Peter that he should forgive

his brother seventy times seven times. That is to say; forgiveness should be our way of life since human error is

constant. It will be embarrassing to react to every bad deed against us; life would also be unbearable. In the

marriage situation, couples should learn to forgive each other constantly. 1 Corinthians13:4 gives us a clear picture

of what love should demonstrate.

Restoring Marriage According to Hosea

In Israel, public humiliation was a form of punishment for an adulterous wife by her husband. Hosea threatens to

humiliate her by claiming she is not his and he is not hers publicly. The threat is meant to caution her of eventuality if

she refuses to change her ways. It is meant to start the restoration process where Gomer sees the danger of being

abandoned presently and in the future. Although she might gain material things in the present, these things may not

exist in the future, leaving her distraught. Before redeeming her, there is a need for her to desire restoration. This

action's importance is that failure to do it might send her right back to her actions from the knowledge that she will

not be punished.

The restoration of marriage, according to Hosea, is not automatic. It requires the effort of the aggrieved partner in

being compassionate towards the other. Hosea takes the step of seeking his estranged wife, who is lost in

prostitution as a slave to the temple of Baal. To get her back, he has to pay a price which he willfully does. Hosea

considers that she is the mother of his children and is willing to forgive her at all costs. He will not let her remain in

her business and forsake her; his duty is to bring her back home and restore her to her marriage position.

Hosea also asked his children to appeal to their mother to forsake her promiscuity and return to her husband. He

expects the children to play a role in the restoration of the marriage and even cautions them on the effects of fai

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to obey him. Using the children is meant to appeal to her motherly instincts and sway her to a positive reaction.

Additionally, her children's knowledge and are disgusted by her waywardness is meant to create remorse in Gomer.

Rather than apply his manly control, he opts to use the gentle force of the voice of his children.

The estranged spouse also has to play a part in the restoration. She has to go through a purification time, which

meant waiting and preparing. She had to be tested to ascertain if the desired change had happened to her.

Therefore, although one marriage partner decided to forgive the other and restore them to a lover's position, the

nature of their transgression would require that they prove their change of heart and character before being fully

restored.

, the husband should forgive the wife for enabling reconciliation when his wife decides to change her ways. God

even told Hosea in chapter three to restore his unfaithful wife to himself. In verse two of chapter three, he goes

ahead even to pay the price to redeem her from Baal’s temple. Therefore, forgiveness should begin from the grieved

partner for the marriage to work rather than from the adulterous one. Without forgiveness, it is impossible to restore

the marriage relationship.

The unfaithful wife should prove that she has changed from her ways and is willing to give the relationship all her

attention. In Hosea's case, the proof is abstinence and maintaining distance from each other for a season. Since his

wife’s nymphomania pushed her to other lovers, abstinence will display the sacrifice she is willing to make to save

her marriage. It will also be a show of remorse and the sacrifice she is willing to go through.

Parenting Needs and Patterns in Nurturing the Children

One parenting need is that of the presence of the parent to nurture and direct the children. Gomer leaves her

children to go and practice prostitution in the temple. Mothers are known to bring up children and to show them the

right way. However, Gomer’s children are alone and only depend on the provision of their father. It is symbolic of the

priests who have forsaken the right teachings and turned religion into a business. They no longer consider evil since

they desire to reap from it. Gomer is after oil and bread and choice ornaments that she hopes to get from her

wayside lovers. Therefore, she neglects her duties for the riches she hopes to get and the opportunity to survive.

Children need love despite their waywardness from time to time. Their failure to know their parents and to live

according to their expectations leads the children to sin.