

"Cakes Not Turned"

Introduction

Hosea 7:8

1. **As in this text of scripture, a lesson text can take our minds to many places in the Bible.**
 - A. **To the banks of a river – Lydia (Acts 16).**
 - B. **To a high mountain – The Transfiguration (Matthew 17).**
 - C. **To a large city – Antioch (Acts 11:26) – Called Christians.**
 - D. **To the tabernacle or temple.**
 - E. **To an enchanting land like Egypt.**
 - F. **To a holy city like Jerusalem.**
2. **For this lesson, our text takes us back to the kitchen of a woman in Israel some 2,800 years ago – written by the prophet Hosea during the days of Hezekiah.**
 - A. **"Ephraim has mixed himself among the peoples; Ephraim is a cake unturned."**
 - B. **Hosea uses this "cake not turned" to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Northern Kingdom — it was in bad shape!**
 - 1) **Ephraim, the largest tribe of the rebellious ten, is sometimes used to refer to the Northern Kingdom as a whole. It's 209 year history would end in 721 B.C. at the hands of the Assyria.**

- 3. Who was this prophet Hosea – who penned this spiritual cooking lesson that lives in the pages of the Bible. What truth was he serving up to the people?**
- A. He was a contemporary of Isaiah and Micah.**
 - B. He had a long tenure as a prophet of God – spanning some 45 years during the last six kings of the Northern Kingdom.**
 - C. He prophecies during Israel’s last hours as a nation.**
 - 1) Later, God would call on Jeremiah to do the same in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.**
 - D. The book of Hosea represents God’s last gracious effort to try to save Israel.**
 - 1) Israel may have given up on God but God had not given up on Israel!**
 - 2) Every erring brother and sister needs to realize that Biblical truth!**
 - E. Hosea uses metaphors and images in scolding the people for their:**
 - 1) Lying, murder, insincerity, ingratitude, idolatry, and covetousness.**
 - F. However, let it be noted, that his messages are punctuated with consolation and future hope.**

A Cooking Lesson for Life

1. Hosea says that “Ephraim is a cake not turned.”
2. The sort of cake, to which Ephraim is compared to is a circular cake like a pancake, to which a scorching heat was applied on one side.
3. If it remained very long “unturned,” it was burned on one side; while it continued unbaked, doughy, on the other. The fire was hot, but not penetrating it through — **such were the people!**
4. A few illustrations:
 - A. Pancakes – bubbles on the uncooked side.
 - B. Waffles – trying to release it from the waffle iron before it is cooked all the way through on both sides.
 - C. Cornbread – gooey inside – not cooked all the way through.
5. Hosea uses this “cake not turned” to illustrate the spiritual condition of the Northern Kingdom.
 - A. They had mingled themselves with the nations – and yet, at the same time they considered themselves to be the consecrated people of God.
 - B. They worshiped idols ----- and they worshiped God.
6. 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.

A Christian Can Be a "Cake Not Turned"

- 1. A Christian may be "well done" in the outward show of religion but "raw and doughy" in inward religion.**

Matthew 15:8-9 'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' "

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.

- A. One may appear ready to serve on the outside, but not fully ready on the inside.**
 - B. When it comes to inward religion, many brethren are "Cakes not Turned."**
- 2. A Christian may be "Well Done" in hearing but "Raw and Doughy" in doing.**
James 1:22-25
 - A. Ready to serve on the outside ----- not fully ready on the inside.**
 - B. When it comes to doing, to working, many brethren are "Cakes not Turned."**

3. **A Christian may be “Well Done” in Sunday morning attendance but “Raw and Doughy” in other meeting times of the church such as Sunday evening, Wednesday night, and Gospel meetings.**
 - A. **Brethren place themselves under the oversight of elders, then refuse to heed the elder’s directions for further spiritual growth opportunities.**
 - 1) **When it comes to attending faithfully, it is unfortunate that many brethren are “Cakes not Turned.”**
4. **A Christian may be “Half-baked” in the sense of being a friend of the world while trying to be the friend of God.**

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.

- A. **James is saying that we can’t have it both ways. Israel tried and Israel failed - let us learn this and take it to heart!**
5. **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.”**

Luke 12:13-21

 - A. **People want possessions God wants people!**

The Fate of Half-Baked "Cakes Not Turned"

1. Doom and destruction is the fate of Half-Baked "Cakes not Turned."

A. It was so then It is so today. As was Ephraim in its half-baked condition, so are "Cakes not Turned" today.

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.

2. A "Cake not Turned"

A. Would not be chosen.

B. Cannot be served.

C. If served, it will not be eaten.

3. Half-Baked is synonymous with lukewarm. "Cakes not turned" are not palatable physically or spiritually.

Revelation 3:16 So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

4. It is 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**.

A. Therein lies the tragedy ----- **"he does not know it."**

How to Keep From Being a "Cake Not Turned"

1. Realize that with the Lord it is all or it is nothing!

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.**

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, "**No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**"

2. It is imperative that we pay more attention to things spiritual.

- A. **Grow in the ways God wants us to grow.**
- B. **Avoid the things God would want us to avoid.**
- C. **Never compromise our faith and never compromise our faithfulness.**
- D. **Begin this day to replace half-hearted, half-attendance, with whole-hearted attendance of ALL the services understanding that this is for our spiritual good – our food.**
- E. **Be hearers and then make sure that we are doers with all that is within us!**

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;**

- F. **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 your half-baked service to our Lord Jesus Christ!**

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

- A. **There is a standard of purity — there is a standard of faithfulness — there is a standard of obedience, which God fully expects of His dear children.**

1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him **purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

2. **The people of Israel had inter-married with foreign people and had picked up their evil ways.**
 - A. **When we spend a lot of time with people, we can easily pick up their attitudes and begin to imitate their actions.**
 - B. **When you work, live, or play with those who are not children of God, beware of the influence they have on you.**
 - 1) **That influence will be taken back to your home and family, to your spouse, to your children, your grandchildren.**
 - 2) **That influence will be taken back to the congregation of God’s people that you are part of.**
 - 3) **As a result, that influence may lead you to become a “Cake not Turned.” FAITHFULNESS honors God and God honors FAITHFULNESS. Be faithful until death (Revelation 2:10).**

Invitation

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