

# RETURN TO ME

THE HEART OF GOD  
THROUGH THE MINOR PROPHETS

**<sup>1</sup> 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:**

**<sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim...**

**Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1-5**

**<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.” <sup>2</sup> So I bought her for fifteen shekels[a] of silver and about a homer and a lethek[b] of barley. <sup>3</sup> Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.” ...**

**Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1-5**

**<sup>4</sup> For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. <sup>5</sup> Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.**

**Hosea 1:2-3, 3:1-5**

The background is a deep blue gradient with a complex, abstract pattern of white and light blue particle trails. These trails form a large, glowing, circular shape in the upper half of the image, resembling a stylized globe or a network of connections. A bright, yellowish-white light source is positioned within this circular structure, creating a lens flare effect that radiates across the scene. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and digital.

**“The Capital  
of the World”**

# 1. Hosea's Pain

The background of the slide is a deep, dark blue, speckled with numerous small, white and light blue stars, creating a starry night sky effect. In the lower right quadrant, there is a faint, glowing constellation pattern, possibly representing the constellation Orion, with a bright yellow star at its base. The overall aesthetic is serene and celestial.

**1. Hosea's Pain**

**2. God's Problem**

**1. Hosea's Pain**

**2. God's Problem**

**3. Gomer's Price**

**1. Hosea's Pain**

**2. God's Problem**

**3. Gomer's Price**

**“Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.”**

**Hosea 1:2**

**I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you  
in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.  
I will betroth you in faithfulness,**

**Hosea 2:19-20**



**Why would *God* say that being  
in a relationship with him is  
*like being in a marriage?***

The background is a deep blue gradient with a complex, abstract pattern of white and light blue particle trails or fiber-like structures. These trails form a large, irregular shape on the left side, resembling a stylized letter 'A' or a similar character. A bright, multi-colored lens flare is positioned in the center of the image, casting a horizontal glow. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and digital.

**a. Marriage is  
demanding**

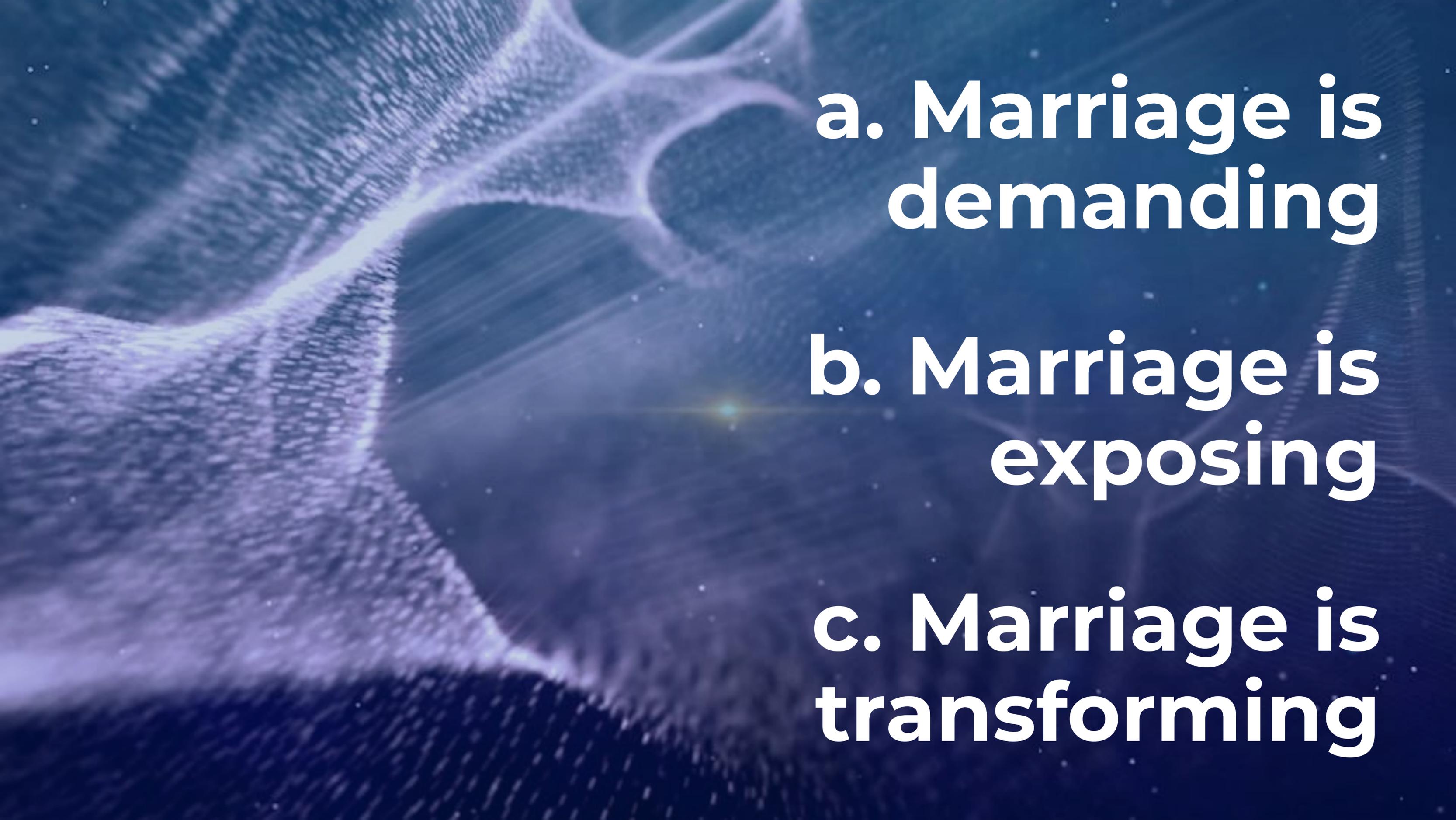
"I had a boss moment the other day," [she] said. "I was doing a press conference and they keep asking me what it was like to be married, and I said, 'Being married is not my achievement. My achievement is producing this film and having a producing deal with a major studio—that is my achievement.'"

She added, "Everyone shut up after that. It was really nice."



**a. Marriage is  
demanding**

**b. Marriage is  
exposing**



**a. Marriage is  
demanding**

**b. Marriage is  
exposing**

**c. Marriage is  
transforming**

**1. Hosea's Pain**

**2. God's Problem**

**3. Gomer's Price**

**...for like an adulterous wife this land  
is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.**

**Hosea 1:2**

**And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins.”**

**Hosea 3:1**

“the beloved of God,  
chosen by God”

**Henri Nouwen**  
*Life of the Beloved*

“That is the way to spiritual death.”

**Henri Nouwen**  
*Life of the Beloved*

**How do we hold  
onto our status  
as God's chosen,  
beloved one?**

**1. Keep “unmasking” the world about you**

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**2. Keep looking for people and places where you are reminded of your deepest identity**

- 1. Keep “unmasking” the world about you**
- 2. Keep looking for people and places where you are reminded of your deepest identity**
- 3. Keep celebrating your chosenness constantly.**

“The unfathomable mystery of God is that God is a lover who wants to be loved. The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being. God not only says, “You are my Beloved,” God also asks, “Do you love me?”

That is the spiritual life: The chance to say  
“Yes” to [being the Beloved]”

**Henri Nouwen**  
*Life of the Beloved*

**1. Hosea's Pain**

**2. God's Problem**

**3. Gomer's Price**

**So I bought her for fifteen  
shekels of silver and a homer  
and a lethech of barley.**

**Hosea 3:2**

**Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”**

**Hosea 3:3**

***This matters because it shows us that as much as we need God our King to rule us, and as much as we need God our Shepherd to guide us, we need the intimate love of God as our spouse to heal us.***

**Therefore I am now going to allure her;  
I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.  
There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor a  
door of hope.**

**Hosea 2:14-15**

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