

HOLY LOVE

Hosea 2:23

Souls are wont to be brought into trouble before God bestows true hope and comfort. The corrupt hearts of men naturally incline to stupidity and senselessness before God comes with the awakening influences of his Spirit. They are quiet and secure. They have no true comfort and hope, and yet they are quiet; they are at ease. They are in miserable slavery, and yet seek not a remedy. They say, as the children of Israel did in Egypt to Moses, "Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians." But if God has a design of mercy to them, it is his manner before he bestows true hope and comfort on them, to bring them into trouble, to distress them, and spoil their ease and false quietness, and to rouse them out of their old resting and sleeping places, and to bring them into a wilderness. They are brought into great trouble and distress, so that they can take no comfort in those things in which they used to take comfort. Their hearts are pinched and stung, and they can find no ease in anything. They have, as it were, an arrow sticking fast in them, which causes grievous and continual pain, an arrow which they cannot shake off, or pull out. The pain and anguish of it drinks up their spirit. Their worldly enjoyments were a sufficient good before; but they are not now. They wander about with wounded hearts, seeking rest, and finding none.

Jonathan Edwards

- I. **THE COST OF ADULTERY:** Gomer is a picture of the steep cost of idolatrous love, which is spiritual adultery.
- II. **THE COST OF JUDGMENT:** In one sense, the worst judgment God could ever bring is to give us over to the idols of our hearts.
- III. **THE COST OF LOVE:** Instead of judgment, God announces to His people an unbridled, holy love that can redeem even the most rebellious among us.