Hosea 4 • How Did THIS Happen?

1. (v.1-3) God presents a legal case proving their lack of knowledge of Him based on their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, the Laws of the “second” tablet.
2. (v.4-6) Spirituality deteriorates because of the lack of accountability on all levels to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. This results in spiritually forsaking their **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** for a substitute “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**”.
   1. James 1:22-25. Not a “forgetful **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** but an effectual **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**”.
   2. This is the path not only to being disqualified from one’s spiritual **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, but earthly **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.
3. (v.7-10) Eventually the disease is evidenced by the forsaking of God’s **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** for one’s own **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. (Philippians 3:17-19)
4. (v.11-14) **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** unfaithfulness eventually becomes evident by one’s **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** unfaithfulness, biblically defined as a “lack of understanding”.
5. (v.15-19) As with all injurious behavioral problems, it seems to take a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** before it can be turned around and unfaithfulness properly addressed.

Let’s Connect the Dots

Consider the following Scriptural sequence culled from this lesson’s reading and discuss how it provides a basis for understanding how a person, church, or movement can start out right but ends up in the completely wrong place spiritually.

1. (v.1) *“...there is no faithfulness, or kindness, or knowledge of God in the land.”* ***Symptom***: Treatment of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. (v.4) *“Yet let no one find fault, and let none offer reproof...”* ***Symptom***: Lack of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. (v.6) *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”* ***Symptom***: Replaced the Father with a substitute “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**”
4. (v.6) *“...you have forgotten the law of your God...”* ***Symptom***: Becoming a “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** hearer”
5. (v.10) *“...they have stopped giving heed to the Lord.”* ***Symptom***: **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** from God’s Word
6. (v.12) *“...a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, and they have played the harlot, departing from their God.”* ***Symptom***: Visible **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** unfaithfulness to match **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** unfaithfulness
7. (v.16) *“...Like a stubborn heifer, can the Lord now pasture them like a lamb in a large field?”* ***Symptom***: Must have a **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** experience to see the truth and want to change.
8. (v.19) *“...they will be ashamed because of their sacrifices.”* **Symptom**: Must engage in true and sincere **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

Do you or anyone you know fit at least part of this profile? Do you see the value of gentle but firm admonishment – of speaking up to make them accountable – and not being a party to allowing behavior to escalate? If we don’t **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, where will we end up, both ourselves and the others for whom we remain silent?

***Conclusion****: Part of the process of spiritual healing and reconciliation* ***MUST*** *involve a return to God’s Word, a powerful tool that heals unfaithfulness by encouraging* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***.*