Fired Up, But Only Half Baked

Text: Hosea 7:1-10

I. Introduction.

A. Hosea7:1-10, "*When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without. And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face. They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies. They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened. In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners. For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire. They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me. Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned. Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not. And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.*"

B. We admire those driven by a passion for the things that they do.

1. John 2:13-17, "*And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting: And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.*"

II. The nation of Ephraim, the northern Kingdom of Israel, was all fired up.

A. It appeared that they were eager to serve God

1. Hosea 6:1-3, "*Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*"

B. But God saw that it was all shallow and transient.

1. Hosea 6:4, "*O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.*"

C. Evil deeds were rampant among them, but notice…

1. Hosea 7:2, "*And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.*"

2. Isaiah 1:2-3, "*Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.*"

D. They did not understand where their actions were leading them.

1. Deut. 32:28-29, "*For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!*"

E. Their leaders were pleased with the corruption because they saw because they could see the profit in it for themselves.

1. Hosea 7:3, "*They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.*"

F. Some leaders want to hear what they expect, even if it is a lie.

1. I Kings 22:6, "*Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.*"

2. I Kings 22:13, "*And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good.*"

3. I Kings 22:20-22, "*And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.*"

4. I Kings 22:26-28, "*And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.*"

G. Those who give approval are condemned along with those who commit the deeds.

1. Rom. 1:32, "*Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*"

H. <u>They</u> warmed themselves with sexual sins.

1. Hosea 7:4, "*They are all adulterers, as an oven heated by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.*"

2. Rev. 2:19-20, "*I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*"

I. They fired themselves up with liquor.

1. Hosea 7:5, "*In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners.*"

J. They smoldered while they laid plans.

1. Hosea 7:6, "*For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire.*"

2. Micah 2:1-2, "*Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi; and to your sisters, Ruhamah. Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts;*"

3. Prov. 4:14-16, "*Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.*"

K. They mixed with the nations.

1. Hosea 7:8, "*Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.*"

2. Psa. 106:34-36, "*They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the LORD commanded them: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.*"

III. The result was their own destruction; they consumed themselves with their passion.

A. Hosea 7:7, "*They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.*"

B. It is interesting to read of the succession of kings in Israel.

1. II Kings 15:8-14, "*And Abijam slept with his fathers; and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. And in the twentieth year of Jeroboam king of Israel reigned Asa over Judah. And forty and one years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Maachah, the daughter of Abishalom. And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, as did David his father. And he took away the sodomites out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron. But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.*"

2. 1 Kings 15:23-30, "*The rest of all the acts of Asa, and all his might, and all that he did, and the cities which he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead. And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin. And Baasha the son of Ahijah, of the house of Issachar, conspired against him; and Baasha smote him at Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines; for Nadab and all Israel laid siege to Gibbethon. Even in the third year of Asa king of Judah did Baasha slay him, and reigned in his stead. And it came to pass, when he reigned, that he smote all the house of Jeroboam; he left not to Jeroboam any that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according unto the saying of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Ahijah the Shilonite: Because of the sins of Jeroboam which he sinned, and which he made Israel sin, by his provocation wherewith he provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.*"

C. They are like a pancake placed on a too hot griddle – burnt on one side and uncooked on the other.

1. Hosea 7:9, "*Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not.*"

D. They did not look to God for aid.

1. Hosea 7:7, "*They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.*"

E. In their pride they thought they could solve their own problems.

1. Hosea 7:10, "*And the pride of Israel testifieth to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this.*"

IV. What this means to you and I.

A. Zeal that is not directed toward serving God in His way is not good.

1. Rom. 10:1-3, "*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"

B. Zeal itself is not the goal

C. Be careful of those who put all their emphasis on the fire and neglect the product.