

**All Saints Cathedral, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Morning Devotion.  
Sharing on Hosea 4:6-----my people perish for lack of knowledge.**

- A. Self Introduction:
- B. Recap: We continue to reflect on the theme: Walking in Divine Purpose. The last two weeks, we have concentrated on the tool of wisdom in this walk. Today, we reflect on the tool of knowledge.
- C. Sermon Introduction: We consider this topic of wisdom alongside the Cathedral Mission week theme of Mark 16:15..... Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. You are the market place ministers, engaged in real life challenges in society. You are the 'Reverends' out there; Christ's ambassadors – preaching good news to all people/ creation.

In our work with Schools, as Diocesan Education Department; we challenge the Head Teachers as the Vicars of the Schools, the Teachers are the Priests. They have more influence on the life of the students/ pupils/ our children more than the Resident Parish Priests or even the parents. Our Goal: make these Heads and Teachers better 'reverends' than us.

Likewise, you the different professionals here this morning; Business, Lawyers, Medics; among many others--- you are the reverends out there! You interact with more souls- so go to your offices as witnesses by your example and testimony.

This morning, we consider the life testimony of Prophet Hosea.

- D. Prophet Hosea:  
Name Hosea means salvation. Had been a Mukiiga- he have been called: Mujuni, Najuna or Mulokole among the Baganda.  
Comes to the scene in history of Israel when the nation was experiencing an economic boom but yet- they were spiritually impoverished. They had prostituted their relationship with God.  
God makes a tough call of Hosea; Through him, this Prostituted relationship would be demonstrated.  
Hosea (Salvation, Mulokole, Mujuni) is forced to marry Gomer, who God knew would later become a prostitute. She becomes so after they have had three children. She walks out of her marriage, moves out with other men; abandoning her husband- the man of God and their three Children. (This is a common occurrence today. Has happened to many that we know. My wife and I are married 9 years with 3 children--- I am not sure I would handle this scenario.)  
Read Hosea 1:2-3. Hosea is to endure this relationship, redeem his wife at a cost and unconditionally love her. Read Hosea 3:1-3  
Simply Put: God says to Hosea: Continue to love your prostituted wife, that what it is for me- to love my people that have deserted me.

C. The Lack of knowledge: The text we read; Hosea 4:1-11 highlights the context in which the Lord spoke about the perishing as a result for the lack of knowledge.

- No faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgement of God in the land
- Bloodshed follows bloodshed
- The people, Prophets stumble day and night
- Priests feed on the sins of the People- like People like Priests!

A community, society, nation under destruction .

**Reason:** They lack knowledge because: They have rejected God through rejecting his law/word,

**Repercussion:** They will suffer the above and their children will be forgotten, their posterity killed. They suffer social and economic insecurity.

The Solution: Return to the knowledge of God.

Knowledge is information and skills gained through experience or education. We consider two aspects of knowledge.

1. **Knowledge of facts:** This is being informed. Greek word is Gnosis; The kind of Knowledge that puffs up- 1Corinthians 8:1! Academic knowledge leading to pride. It is possible to be informed, not transformed. Are our universities transforming us or simply informing us? Many professionals are transformed, certainly not transformed.
2. **Knowledge that builds relationships:** This goes beyond facts and mere information. It seeks to care and build intimacy for and with society. In Greek, this is epignosis: Knowledge full of God and based on understanding and application of the word of God. It calls for an intimate and devoted relationship with God and compels one to know God's will and live it out. This is the kind of knowledge that Israel lacked. They had turned their intimacy and devotion to other gods, materialistic lifestyle around them, so despite their economic boom; they did not enjoy their labour. God calls them to return to him, and this would be a costly return, just as Hosea had to buy Gomer back to their marriage. Hosea 3:2

The Ultimate knowledge is that of the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ, in whom, nothing is impossible. God always desires that His people turn back to him; Hosea 3:5. Short of the knowledge of Christ, nations, kingdoms, families perish- are destroyed. The blood shed, collapsing of family and society relationships are hugely attributed to the lack of knowledge of Christ.

### **Three Concluding Prayer Points:**

1. **Call for Hoseas:** Conduits for God's grace and unconditional love for his people. As we seek to see healing, restoration in families and work and society- we may need to take on the Hosea Perspective. It is difficult but redeeming. The Knowledge of Christ, our intimate relationship with him causes us to love the unlovable. The founder of world vision: Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.
2. **The need for us to grow in the knowledge of Christ.** Pray for increased appetite for God's word. We may be informed, we need to be transformed. Joshua 1:8
3. **Our Relationship with God:** Some of us, as individuals need to know the Lord. Others- members of our families, workmates, those we are discipling. This personal knowledge of Christ is the most transforming knowledge upon which all other knowledge should be established.