



**Gutenberg College Summer Institute 2015
REUNION: Tanakh and the Gospel of Matthew**

**Talk 12: Background to Hosea 6:6
Ron Julian**

I. *hesed*

- A. Hosea 6:6 and Matthew 9:13 in the New American Standard Bible:
1. (Hosea 6:6) For I delight in **loyalty** rather than sacrifice...
 2. (Matthew 9:13) But go and learn what this means, 'I desire **compassion**, and not sacrifice' ...
- B. Various English translations of Hosea 6:6:
1. NASB: For I delight in **loyalty** rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
 2. ESV: For I desire **steadfast love** and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
 3. NIV: For I desire **mercy**, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.
 4. NET: For I delight in **faithfulness**, not simply in sacrifice; I delight in acknowledging God, not simply in whole burnt offerings.
- C. The debate over *hesed*:
1. Lovingkindness? Covenant loyalty?
- D. *hesed* in our passage (Hosea 6:4-7):
1. What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
For your *hesed* is like a morning cloud,
And like the dew which goes away early.
Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets;
I have slain them by the words of My mouth;
And the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth.
For I delight in *hesed* rather than sacrifice,
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.
But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant;
There they have dealt treacherously against Me.
- E. Some examples of the use of *hesed*:
1. NAS Genesis 21:23. "[N]ow therefore, swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me, or with my offspring, or with my posterity; but according to the *hesed* that I have shown to you, you shall show to me, and to the land in which you have sojourned."

2. NAS Genesis 24:27. And he said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His *hesed* and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master's brothers."
3. NAS 2 Samuel 9:7. And David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show *hesed* to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly."
4. NAS Psalm 32:10. Many are the sorrows of the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, *hesed* shall surround him.
5. NAS 1 Kings 20:31. And his servants said to him, "Behold now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are kings of *hesed*, please let us put sackcloth on our loins and ropes on our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will save your life."
6. NAS Jonah 4:2. And he prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in *hesed*, and one who relents concerning calamity."