Reality from TV

"The Odd Couple"

- Introduction: 1. The average American home has 3 television sets.
 - 2. Television, good or bad, catches our attention.
 - 3. So, I thought we would use the titles from several fictional television shows to springboard us into reality recorded for us in the Bible.
 - 4. I also believe that the reality is every bit as much, and more informative, educational, and captivating than the fiction.
 - 5. Tonight, we will examine "The Odd Couple."

I. Background To Hosea & Gomer

- A. Hosea was written to the Northern Tribes of Israel, before they were taken into captivity by the Assyrians.
- B. When Hosea began to be a prophet, he was immediately tested by fire.
- C. You see, he wasn't just given a message to preach, but an object lesson to live.
- D. He was instructed to marry a harlot, and raise children of harlotry.
- E. Think of the difficulty of this task.
- F. Gomer has three children.
 - 1. Jezreel God will scatter.
 - 2. Lo-ruhamah No mercy.
 - 3. Lo-ammi Not my people.
- G. Gomer returns to her life of harlotry, and he is instructed to buy her back.

II. Lessons From The Book Of Hosea

- A. We should understand that obedience is sometimes very difficult (John 14:15).
- B. We should understand the pain we cause God when we sin (Hosea 6:4).
- C. We should appreciate God's grace and mercy (Hos. 11:8; John 1:16; Rom. 5:20).
- D. We should realize the world is only using us (Hosea 3:2; Jude 12,16-19).
- Conclusion: 1. Hosea has my respect.
 - 2. In my estimation he was asked to do as difficult a task as any prophet of God.
 - 3. Through his sacrifice, I have a clear picture painted for me. A picture of sin, sorrow, and salvation.
 - 4. How have you responded to God's love.