



# hole

## day one

At times, people can do the most stupid things! Disagree? Just watch *America's Funniest Home Videos*. As you watch the scene unfolding, you see it coming. You think, "There's no way they're REALLY going to TRY that!" Yep. They are. And all of America is watching, shaking their heads and muttering things like, "What were they thinking?" The warning signs aka *common sense, law of gravity, etc.*, are there, but we can become so caught up in the rush of the moment that we fail to see them.

**READ** Hosea 4:1-2. Since the time of Amos and Hosea, over 2500 years have come and gone. Is the message still relevant? Or have we effectively evolved and matured beyond such self destruction? Could these words be true about our world today? Our country? Our own hearts?

Whenever we head toward destruction, God always provides a warning and a call to repentance.

**READ** Revelation 3:1:3. The church in Sardis, as the people of Israel, appeared to be "alive and well" when in reality they were dead and heading for destruction. God warned them of the coming consequences and issued a call to return to Him once again. What's God saying to you today? Are there areas in your life that have the appearance of life, but are actually dying or dead? Make the choice to come alive today.

**HEED** the warnings and turn to God. "He is wooing you from the jaws of distress to a spacious place free from restriction..."

~ Job 36:16

## day two

How does a nation progress from being a people of God to what we see within the pages of Hosea and Amos? One way is quite similar to the story of the cooked frog: *If you put a frog in hot water, he will immediately jump out. But if you gently immerse him in a kettle of cool comfortable water, he will enjoy staying in the pot. As you increase the water temperature a few degrees at a time, the frog will sit calmly until he has boiled to death.*

Are there attitudes and/or behaviors where you may be approaching the "boiling point?" What about things/thoughts/actions that may have felt like "hot water" in the past but now feel a bit more comfy? What does scripture have to say specifically about them? Spend time today praying for God's truth to reveal any temperature change that has or is taking place. **CONFESS** it and get out of that kettle!

"A long habit of not thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right."

~ Thomas Paine

## day three

**READ** Deuteronomy 12 (or if time's short; Deuteronomy 12:29-32).

Since the people had been informed and warned as to where their rebellion would lead, why didn't they listen?

"The essence of immorality is the tendency to make an exception of myself."

~ Jane Addams

The health risks associated with steroid use are severe. Yet recent studies reveal that over the past few years there's been a significant upward trend in steroid use among amateur athletes at the college and even high school levels. The desired results of improved performance and muscle mass are visible relatively quickly, while initially, the physical and mental damages remain hidden. We then begin to believe that we're the exception to the rule and have beaten the odds.

Is there an area in your life where you're hoping or needing to be the exception? Is there a lie you've embraced as truth to lead you to this belief? Has some level of "justification" crept into your life?

**READ** Galatians 6:7-8.

## day four and day five

**READ** Psalm 139:23-24.

Spend time over the next couple of days checking the temperature of specific areas in your own life. Use the following questions to guide you:

- Where or to whom do I look to for an accurate temperature reading?
- Is there someone that I've given permission to speak truth into my life?
- Do I still receive/hear that truth?
- Have I allowed any worldly or cultural ideas to co-mingle with my faith?
- Have I allowed some form of pop culture, superstition, or wives' tale to intermingle with my beliefs?
- Am I consistently meeting with God, reinforcing biblical truths in my life?
- Have I become numb to injustice, corruption, greed?
- What attitudes, thoughts, or behaviors need to be sifted out?
- What good, healthy, and right things need to be added to my life?
- What am I doing to serve others?
- Is God trying to warn me of the dangers of a path that I'm on?

Consider spending time as a small group talking through these questions and praying for one another. If you aren't in a small group, make the commitment to **FIND** one now. When other frogs are in the water with you, the chance of your survival increases. At least ONE frog will feel the water temperature rising and make a jump for it.