

GLOBAL HEART

14TH JUNE 2015
ALLAN DEMOND
GOD'S INVITING LOVE
HOSEA 6:1-6

What do the following verses have in common? 1Sam 15:22, Hos 6:6, Mic 6:8, Zec 7:9, Mat 9:13

Read Hosea 6:1-6: Comparing verses 1-3 with v 4-6: what tension do you observe? What does it tell you about God's character and man's inclination to embrace 'cheap grace'?

What is God saying about Israel's love of Him? What does God desire?

As we grapple with saying 'Yes' to God, Allan challenges us to say 'Yes' to God as a lover first (He has loved us with a redeeming love) and a 'Law giver' second. How does this help you in your relationship with God?

What happens when we see God as a law giver first? Can you think of an example in your own life where you might have 'got the order around the wrong way'?

God says he loves mercy not sacrifice- to experience mercy and offer it to others. (a) Discuss what you think this means (b) How do God's words challenge us today?

How do we respond to the plight of refugees – there are 16M worldwide?
Allan mentioned the plight of one of our Iranian friends who has recently been sent into detention despite deputations on his behalf. – how might we seek mercy and justice for him and others like him?

How does Jesus' calling of Matthew (Levi) in Mat 9:9-13 and his subsequent dining with Matthew's tax collector friends illustrate Jesus' mercy and being a lover first? How does it challenge our tendency sometimes to act as the Pharisees did?

(In Mat 11:28-30) Jesus extends an invitation to us to be enveloped in his love and rest. How does this encourage you 'just where you are at the moment'?