

IDOLS...

What are you worshipping?

A few weeks ago, Minister Chris said we are now in a season of victory, even if we are still walking around our Jericho.

There was unity, there was obedience and there was worship during the Jericho march. Sunday Evangelist Carter talked about worshipping God, since he is our shepherd.

During that service I heard clearly, Idols...what are you worshipping? Like what's in your wallet.

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO LEARN

- Scenario of idolaters in Ezekiel 14
- What is an idol
- What is idol worship
- Break down idols (Quick Tips)

We are going to look at an interaction between idolaters and God through his prophet

We are going to talk about what an idol is and what it does to you

We are going to talk about idol worship

And we are going to talk about how to break down the idols in our lives, quick tips.

GOD'S RESPONSE

to Idolaters

Idolaters are those who worship idols. It was common in the old testament for this worship to be literal idol worship where people would sit in front of an image of a god or a frog and perform acts of worship such as offering, signing, sacrifices etc.

Set up of Chapter 14 - There is a group of leaders of Israelite community in exile. They actually came to see Ezekiel before in chapter 8 when God began to show him how they had secret idols they thought God couldn't see.

Each one had their own personal idol. At this point in time they are coming back to Ezekiel and sitting down before him expecting him to perform as the other prophets of the land did. In Chapter 13 God rebuked all kinds of false prophets who told lies, who told people what they wanted to hear, and prophesied out of their own spirits until that became their idol.

They were telling people it was a season of peace when it was clearly not, which lulled them into complacency – they should have been repenting, instead they were just waiting for stuff and things.

EZEKIEL 14: 1-11

- 1 Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, and sat before me.
- 2 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- 3 Son of man, these men have set up their **idols in their heart**, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?
- 4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

Notice only CERTAIN elders came to see the word of God.

They are seeking a word of peace from God without repenting.

V3 The reason they were not hearing from God was they had idols in their heart – not little golden statues.

they were coming to God to only hear good things, not the reality of their sin...and this ticked off God pretty bad.

V4 – They set up their own idols in their hearts and made their own stumbling blocks (because idols are works of the flesh agreeing with the works of satan).

God said he would answer them according to the multitude of their idols meaning he was going to speak against them based on how bad their idolatry was.

EZEKIEL 14: 1-11

- 5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.
- 6 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn [yourselves] from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.
- 7 For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself:

V6 Turn from idols and practices because what you worship drives what you do.

EZEKIEL 14: 1-11

- 8 And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD.
- 9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.
- 10 And they shall bear the punishment of their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh [unto him];
- 11 That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither be polluted any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their God, saith the Lord GOD.

V8-9 God will deal directly with idolaters who seek the Word of God without seeking repentance first.

V10 – if a prophet is deceived into speaking to idolaters before God, he gets the same punishment. This is because if a prophet assumes to be the instrument of punishment, it is just another form of idolatry. God himself punishes them so they know he is real, the one true God and greater than anything he or man created.

Jamesion-Fucet-Brown Commentary As they dealt deceitfully with God by seeking answers of peace without repentance, so God would let them be dealt with deceitfully by the prophets whom they consulted. God would chastise their sin with a corresponding sin;

IN SHORT

- Anyone can set up an idol
- Idols hinder the true word of God from flowing
- Idols invoke the action of God
- Repentance is key

This passage shows:

Anyone can setup an idol in their heart.

Idols word of God from flowing.

Idols invoke the judgement actions of God himself.

Repentance is key before approaching God – you cannot worship God in spirit and in truth if there is an idol in your heart.

WHAT ARE IDOLS

Anything that is worshipped that is not God.

[Rev 22:15 KJV] 15 For without [are] dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Idols are based in falsehood and deception and manifest as works of the fles

IDOLS ARE CREATED, NOT CREATORS

- Galatians 5:19-20 KJV Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
- Leviticus 19:4 KJV Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I [am] the LORD your God.

Created by man but not always images

Idols are demonically inspired works of the flesh. Idols are a failed attempt at replicating the creative and authoritative acts of God.

[Gal 5:19-20 KJV] 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

[Lev 19:4 KJV] 4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I [am] the LORD your God

Idols – empty, weak, or false God (some idols are just demon worship or ideology).

Molten Gods – metal rulers

Images as idols are common, because idols appeal to the flesh and what we can see. They are the antithesis of God who we cannot see. This is by design.

HEART IDOLS

- Jeremiah 13:10 KJV This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

What about idols in your heart? Like we saw in Ezekiel

[Jer 13:10 KJV] 10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

Idols in our heart is our own idea, or image of what and how things should be or what we want, or what we think we deserve – and this can be the most dangerous kind of idol

It is something we created and are yet blind to.

BEWARE OF TIDBIT

1Chronicles 16:26 KJV

For all the gods of the people [are] idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Isaiah 2:8 KJV

Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:



[1Ch 16:26 KJV] 26 For all the gods of the people [are] idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Idols cannot create, they are created. When man creates an idol, he takes his God given ability to create and turns around and gives power of what he created over him.

Ex: If I created Tidbit and when I was done creating him, I now give him all the reverence and power in my life to the point he now is the point of decisions I make, the money I spent, etc. I basically hand over control of my life and its outcomes to something I created. That is what idolatry does. And we create a lot of things seen and unseen. We create problems, we create expectations, we create traditions.

[Isa 2:8 KJV] 8 Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Idols are a trick and a tool to get man to give up his worship to God and his authority from God.

DEFINITION

Old Testament

- Hollow
- Empty
- Worthless

New Testament

- Phantom
- Likeness
- Imaginary

Idols (OT) hollow, empty, worthless

one of the few things in the bible to have a connotation of being worthless because they are not created by God. Everything created by God has purpose and value.

Idols are created by man inspired by Satan or self (just like in the Garden of Eden) knowledge became an idol to Adam and Eve – obtaining that knowledge became more important than the command of God – which is all they had ever known.

[Eze 6:9 KJV] 9B... and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

Idols are designed to appeal to our senses, our most basic being sight, which is why we see the little statues, but in Genesis they saw the tree was good – and in the end, they really regretted the evil thing they did.

Idols (NT) – phantom, likeness, imaginary, (remember what we read in Jeremiah)

IOW pretend

Idol (modern English) – something to be loved and adored.

IDOL WORSHIP

1Corinthians 10:7 KJV

Neither be ye **idolaters**, as [were] some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Idolaters – worshippers of false Gods

IDOL WORSHIP

- **Worship** – bow down, to be depressed – not emotionally, it means to physically make yourself smaller like a depression in the earth
- Agreement
- Submission
- Exaltation

2Corinthians 6:16 KJV And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Worship – bow down, to be depressed – not emotionally, it means to physically make yourself smaller like a depression in the earth

What does worship look like

Agreement

Submission

Exaltation of another (or self)

One way relationship

Operates in sight

Idol worship is bowing down, or agreeing with or exalting something worthless
Idol worship places you under something that has no means to provide, protect or connect with you.

Ex: people idolize celebrities – I remember when people were giving to Kylie Jenner via go fund me to make her a billionaire.

Idol worship is a one way relationship with a wall motivated by the imaginations of the heart.

[2Co 6:16 KJV] 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

IDOL WORSHIP

Acts of Worship

- Gifts
- Service
- Words
- Time
- Touch

But don't...

- **Ezekiel 20:31** For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you. ...
- **2Kings 17:12** For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.
- [Zec 10:2 KJV] 2 For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because [there was] no shepherd

Acts of worship include:

Gifts

Service

Words

Time

Touch

Ez 20: 31 For when ye offer your gifts, when ye make your sons to pass through the fire, ye pollute yourselves with all your idols, even unto this day: and shall I be enquired of by you, O house of Israel? [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you. ...

[2Ki 17:12 KJV] 12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.

[Psa 106:38 KJV] 38 And shed innocent blood, [even] the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.

If you notice these are the love languages, and they can be used to worship God correctly or idols incorrectly

What is interesting is false Gods or legitimate idols (objects) they can not return any of the love languages to us Like the true and living God can.

That could be a red flag. If you are showing devotion to something in your love language and its silent in return, move on. Especially when it comes to people.

WHAT CAN BE AN IDOL?

• 1John 5:21 KJV Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Earlier I said man creates his own idols, and they are works of the flesh
What can be some other idols we create?

Idols of ideology

Idols of people (self/others)

Idol of the church

Idols can be doctrines, politics, egos, agendas, Systems

What are the idols in our lives?

Idols are what consume you instead of you being consumed by **God**. “[An idol is] anything more important to you than **God**, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than **God**, and anything that you seek to give you what only **God** can give.”

[1Jo 5:21 KJV] 21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

Have to know what idols are to keep self from them. Have to know what your idols are to remove them.

QUICK TIPS

- Word
- Remove
- Separate/Fast
- 2 Kings 23:24 "perform the words of the law which were written in the book"
- 1 Kings 15:13 "his mother, even her he removed from being queen"
- 1 Chronicles 33:15 "cast them out of the city"

Prayer and repentance area given in virtually every situation so what else can we do?

1. Josiah used the word of God to tear them down
2. Remove unlawful authority – no man, woman, child, idea or organization should have ultimate say in your life. That is something we submit to God. It is our choice w him and it is our choice with others.
3. Separate - in the Old Testament they had physical idols that they threw out of the city. Idols are a work of the flesh, so we kill the flesh by fasting.

[2Ki 23:24 KJV] 24 Moreover the [workers with] familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

[1Ki 15:13 KJV] 13 And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from [being] queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her

idol, and burnt [it] by the brook Kidron.

[2Ch 33:15 KJV] 15 And he took away the strange gods, and the idol out of the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD, and in Jerusalem, and cast [them] out of the city.

NEXT TIME...

- Demonic idols
- Pollution of idols
- Consequences of idols unchecked

Giving

CashApp \$MPCMOVES

PayPal
morningstaronthemove.org

Square Call Nada

Next time will probably dive into the demonic side of idol worship, where you are worshipping demons

Pollution associated with idol worship

About Satan as the original idol who sought to be seen and admired

The consequences of allowing idols to stand in your life and in your church