

“DEALING WITH INDECISION”

1 Kings 18:16-39

To most of us, the word “idolatry” sounds barbaric. It creates images of primitive people bowing before hideous statues. Yet, the Bible emphasizes that anything which is more important than God becomes an idol. An idol is simply what we worship in life. Today, we examine three antidotes for modern idolatry.

1. Detect the idols in my life

“Ahab went to meet Elijah. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, ‘Is that you, you troubler of Israel?’ ‘I have not made trouble for Israel,’ Elijah replied. ‘But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the LORD’s commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.’” 1 Kings 18:16-19

- Pleasure

“...Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” 2 Timothy 3:4

“He who loves pleasure will become poor...” Proverbs 21:17a

- People

“No person, not even the best one, can give your soul all it needs.” ~ Tim Keller

- Profit

“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” Matthew 6:24

- Power

“‘Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?’ So he turned and went off in a rage.” 2 Kings 5:12

2. Decide what God I will worship

“Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’ But the people said nothing.” 1 Kings 18:21

“You shall have no other gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3

*“...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:15*

3. Declare my complete dependence

“‘Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire - he is God.’ Then all the people said, ‘What you say is good.’” 1 Kings 18:23-24

“At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: ‘O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that You, O LORD, are God, and that You are turning their hearts back again.’” 1 Kings 18:36-37

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3

CONCLUSION

- The only lasting cure for idolatry: A fervent love for God

PRIMARY RESOURCES USED FOR THIS SERMON INCLUDE:

Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller

“Dealing with Indecision” by Bob Merritt

“Homemade Gods: A Warning Against Modern-Day Baal Worship” by Ray Pritchard