

Pitching Our Tent

Clearing the Ground Part 7: Getting Rid of Idols



Where We Are as a Church

- Today I believe we are in an Isaiah 54 season where we are pitching our tent to be bigger, better and bolder as a church
- Clearing the ground to ensure we build on the right foundations and are ready to receive what God wants for us



Clearing The Ground

1. Create in Me a Clean Heart
2. Embracing and Living in Forgiveness
3. Letting Go of Unforgiveness
4. Letting Go of Lies and Ungodly Beliefs
5. Dealing With Demonic Oppression (JK)
6. Fasting
7. Getting Rid of Idols



Clearing the Ground

- Part 7
 - Getting Rid of Idols
- Pretext – Gods heart is for us to know and love Him and for us to enjoy our relationship with Him and know and share the fullness of life that He gives.
- The Enemy's desire is to stop the above.



Exodus 20:3-6 / Deuteronomy 5:7-10

“You shall have no other gods before (besides) me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



Idols

- Idols in our lives are those things that we give more importance to in our lives than God?
 - Not just on paper or in what we say
 - In the way that we live



Today (this month) is a
day (month) to **clear**
some more ground



It is **Time** to **get rid**
of any idols and **ensure**
God is **top**
Priority



Israel's Idols

- For Israel these 'other gods' were literal
- To us this seems obvious
- Throughout the history of Israel, the people allowed the influences of the peoples around them to impact upon their practices



How could they be so stupid?!

- God had judged the earth with the great flood, miraculously delivered Israelites from captivity in Egypt, fed them every day in the wilderness, led them victoriously into the promised land, forgiven the people and provided their needs time and again...
- How could they possibly turn their backs on Him and look to foreign gods and indulge their own desires??!
- Holy Cow! (Ex 32)



How could we be so stupid?

- God has delivered us from our sins and given us eternal security
- How could we possibly turn our backs on Him and look to to meet our needs or bring us satisfaction
- In our secular, humanist society... Man is god



Our Idols

- Unlike what we see to us to be the obvious idols that Israel worshipped, our idols tend to be a lot more subtle
 - Things that we worship (give worth to)
 - With our time, our words, our energy, our money
 - We recognise other 'gods' or faiths as counterfeit or a deception
- But what are we giving more importance to in our lives than The Lord?
- What are we treating as though it is ultimately important?
 - Things that control us more than we control them?
 - Even things that are basically good



Before

- al-
 - Upon, above, over
- pā·nā·ya.
 - Derived from Panim = face
 - Most directly ‘in the face of’
 - Before = in front of
- Before = above AND/OR in the face of



Idolatry starts in the heart

- You may not be bowing down to statues of other gods or praying to them
- the elders of Israel had “taken their idols into their hearts” (Ezekiel 14:3) and covetousness “is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5)
- People throughout history have worshipped Gods for certain things (love, war, harvest, sun, rain and so on...)
- We too can place striving for material or earthly things above our pursuit of God



Love the Lord Your God...

Deut 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

- There is only room for the ONE TRUE GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ on the throne of our hearts



So what must we do?

- Recognise ANYTHING that is being given more importance in your life than The Lord or that you are relying on besides Him
- We need to do WHATEVER is necessary to put these things in their rightful place
- God must be given prime time and prime place – even if it means making tough decisions



The Lord God & Idols Do Not Mix

5 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. **2** Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. **3** And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face down on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. **4** But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face down on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.



He is Jealous For You

- He is a jealous God
- He wants your heart, your soul, your mind
- There is no room for anything else above Him, in front of Him, or beside Him



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