

Household Idols

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A. Intro

Has anyone in here been HEARTBROKEN before?

B. Jesus can relate! I can't imagine how heartbroken God had to be with the nation of Israel because they had this uncanny propensity to follow after idols and other gods!

No matter the amount of miracles they saw, no matter how much God blessed them, rescued them, provided for them or punished them they ended up following after false "gods" and idols!

- IMMEDIATELY after God brought them out of Egypt, destroyed the most powerful nation in the world, brought them to SINAI to introduce Himself and consumed a mountain in fire what did they do they do a few chapters later!? THEY MADE AND WORSHIPPED AN IDOL!
- After Joshua died what did they do? THEY MADE AND SERVED IDOLS!
- In Judges when the judge died what did they do? THEY MADE AND SERVED IDOLS!
- During the reign of Solomon, he married foreign women and tuned his heart to worship the idols of his wives!
- Throughout the divided kingdom history what did they do? THEY MADE AND SERVED IDOLS!
- Their idolatry got to such a point to where they were sacrificing their children to the god of Molech, practicing witchcraft & soothsaying & they were doing even more evil than than pagan nations around them!

One of Israel's biggest problems was with IDOLS! When you look at the history of Israel, from the moment they met God at Sinai all the way to the Babylonian Exile they were constantly chasing after Idols or the gods of the nations and cultures that surrounded them!

They were guilty of constantly breaking the very first thing God told them as a nation!

Exodus 20:2-5 (NLT)

"I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery. ³"You must not have any other god but me. ⁴"You must not make for yourself

an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.
5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.”

Can you imagine the HEARTBREAK of God watching the nation that He chose to be “married” to constantly run to other gods? God told a prophet named Hosea to marry a prostitute as a representation of what it like being “married” Israel! IMAGINE YOUR SPOUSE CHEATING ON YOU ON YOUR HONEYMOON! This is what this felt like to God!

Ezekiel 6:9 (NLT)

“...They will recognize how **hurt** I am by their **unfaithful hearts** and **lustful eyes** that long for their idols...”

God’s heart was broken into pieces over Israel’s unfaithfulness to Him. He was absolutely crushed! He was so heartbroken that He had prophet named Hosea marry a prostitute so signify what it was like being in relationship with Israel!

C. Learning that Israel committed idolatry is “old news” but learning HOW they did it is quite revealing and relevant to us that are in this room!

In my mind, I have always thought that Idolatry meant abandoning God or YAHWEH to completely follow these false gods but that wasn’t always the case. There were certainly times of that, but I recently learned that there were other times during the Israel’s divided kingdom period or in their tribal period (Judges) where **it wasn’t an abandoning of God or YAHWEH but an adding of other gods!**

What would happen is that Israel would claim YAHWEH as their national God, but they would go home and pray and serve HOUSEHOLD IDOLS! They would recognize their allegiance to YAHWEH but in their HOUSE, they would have shrines built to worship other things or gods! In Judges, when this was a normal thing, the tabernacle was in operation for 300 years...That’s 300 years of making sacrifices before the Lord, that’s 300 years of burning incense before the Lord, 300 years of make the showbread, 300 years of the High Priest entering the tabernacle...

If I can put it to you like this: They were worshipping YAHWEH on Sundays and going HOME to serve their idols on Monday! They were still doing “church” or their religious activity, but the allegiance of their hearts was split because their hearts didn’t FULLY belong to YAHWEH.

Judges 17:1-5 (NLT)

“There was a man named Micah, who lived in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 One day he said to his mother, “I heard you place a curse on the person who stole 1,100 pieces of silver from you. Well, I have the money. I was the one who took it.” “The Lord bless you for admitting it,” his mother replied. 3 He returned the money to her, and she said, “**I now dedicate these silver coins to the LORD. In honor of my son, I will have an**

image carved and an IDOL cast.” ⁴ So when he returned the money to his mother, she took 200 silver coins and gave them to a silversmith, who made them into an image and an idol. And these were placed in Micah’s house. ⁵ Micah set up a shrine for the idol, and he made a sacred ephod and some household idols. Then he installed one of his sons as his personal priest.”

I used this example to show that they thought it was OK and NORMAL to serve God AND idols! Israel was not just guilty of abandoning God in moments but of adding gods and trying to serve more than YAHWEH!

In the OLD TESTAMENT, idols were referred to as an object that was a MANMADE (like a carved statue or Asherah poles) that received AFFECTION, TRUST, DEVOTION, WORSHIP & SACRIFICE; in the Old Testament, mostly you read about idols in the form of statues.

D. But as you read the Bible, God lets us know that idolatry goes beyond just worshipping a statue!

Samuel confronted King Saul with the charge that “**stubbornness is** as iniquity and **idolatry.**” What’s interesting is the same word for that is used for idol actual is the same Hebrew word for HOUSEHOLD IDOLS! In the New Testament Paul writes,

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

“So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, **for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.**”

Why does Paul equate a greedy person with an idolater?

They have an excessive desire for more of something and that something is the world. Paul lets us know that IDOL WORSHIP is bigger than setting up shrines and carving images, but idolatry can look like worshipping (craving) the things of this world and the word “world” is KOSMOS which can mean the ways of this world and anything in this world!

Idol: “**ANYTHING OTHER THAN God that receives our affection, trust, worship, and sacrifice!**”

Did you know that:

- Possessions can become an idol
- Sports can become an idol
- A political party can become an idol
- Money can become an idol
- A position can become an idol
- Addictions are certainly idols (if I say I NEED it and its not Jesus, it’s an idol!)
- A person can become an idol

- American, Western culture can become an idol, etc.

Here is the crazy thing about idols, they aren't always evil, bad things. They are just things that don't deserve our affection and trust! When Israel made the golden calf, they made an idol out of what of God gave them!

Anything that's JESUS AND is an idol! Anything that starts to take my allegiance, my trust and my worship is an idol!

1 Kings 11:4 (NASB)

“For when Solomon was old, his wives **turned his heart away** to follow other gods; and his heart was not **WHOLLY DEVOTED** to the Lord his God, as the heart of his father David *had been*.”

AN IDOL IS ANYTHING THAT CAUSES YOUR HEART NOT TO BE FULLY DEVOTED TO THE LORD!

Therefore, John writes:

1 John 5:21 (NASB)

“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”

1 John 5:21 (NLT)

“Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.”

E. I wonder if we are guilty of idolatry; not in the sense that we have abandoned God but that we have added idols!

I wonder if we, like Israel, claim God (we claim Jesus is our God) but in our HOMES we have HOUSEHOLD IDOLS. I wonder if we are going to church on Sunday but when we get home we are giving our trust, worship, devotion and affection to:

- Pornography (idolatry usually leads to sexual perversion)
- Money
- Adultery
- Sports
- Success
- Security
- Family
- Church/religion/ministry
- Ideology
- Relationships
- Social Media
- Possessions
- Your culture

*SAME SPIRIT/ DIFFERENT FACE

Can I ask you this morning who/what has your affection other than God? Who/What has your trust other than God? Who/what has your devotion other than God? Who/what is causing your heart not to be FULLY DEVOTED!

Matthew 6:40 (NLT)

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

Serve: “To be a slave, to be controlled by.”

My friend we cannot serve two masters because we will love one and hate the other!

- I can't serve God and pornography
- I can't serve God and money
- I can't serve God and success
- I can't serve God and sports

Hate: “to love less!”

It's not that I am going to completely and vehemently hate God with a passion, it's that my idol is going to divide my heart and make me love him less! Idols are affection stealers!

F. Idolatry is spiritual adultery in the eyes of God

Jeremiah 13:27 (NLT)

“I have seen your **adultery** and lust, and your disgusting idol worship out in the fields and on the hills. What sorrow awaits you, Jerusalem! How long before you are pure?”

[Picture of marriage]

G. Altar Call: Do we have any household idols?

What happens when we turn from our idols and our hearts become fully His again!

2 Chronicles 7:14-15 (NLT)

“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. ¹⁵ My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place.”

**Prophetically what was happening Sunday night...We cannot tear down the idols over our city if we are busy worshipping them in our house!*