

Sermon: The Mysterious Presence of God

Text: 1 Samuel 5:1-4

1 Sa 5:1-5

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 downward 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 downward 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. (ESV)

“When a country doesn’t demand a corrupt clergy be reformed, it reveals that the entire country has become corrupt!” – Keller

The pagan never asks which God true, only which God is functional.

1) – Avoid the paganistic approach or pursuit of God!

Do not follow Jesus because the pursuit is exciting.

Do not follow Jesus because it is healing.

Do not follow Jesus because it is relevant.

Do not follow Jesus because it is powerful.

FOLLOW JESUS BECAUSE HE IS TRUTH! – unknown

2) God’s Presence is Not Predictable

One day the Ark goes into battle with 30k soldiers and is powerless.
Four days later the Ark lays waste to an entire nation with no soldiers.
God does not need HELP!

We are not to worship 'signs of His presence'; we worship HIM!

3) Presence is found where there is Total Commitment.

4) Presence demands the destruction of all idols.

5) Presence surrounds the Mercy Seat!