Welcome to *Tearing Down The Altars* week on *The Dallas Morning Show*!

Are you ready for a breakthrough? Do you need deliverance today? Would you like to be free from the addictions, sins, and habits that hold you captive? Do you long for an intimacy with God that goes beyond anything you've ever known? Then you're in the right place at the right time!

Come along for a life-changing week, as we allow the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit to do two things: 1) Identify the idols in our lives, and 2) help us to tear down the altars of those idols once and for all. God bless you, as we pursue obedience to Jesus' commands this week.

Peace In Christ,

~Monica
**Day 11 | Monday**

**A Husband's Love: Why God Hates Idolatry**

“They have committed both adultery and murder—adultery by worshiping idols and murder by burning their children as sacrifices on their altars.” Ezekiel 23:37 (NLT)

**VIEWER GUIDE**

**Focus Scripture**

Ezekiel 16:9-22 (NET) | God’s Unfaithful Wife

> “Then I bathed you in water, washed the blood off you, and anointed you with fragrant oil. I dressed you in embroidered clothing and put fine leather sandals on your feet. I wrapped you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with jewelry. I put bracelets on your hands and a necklace around your neck. I put a ring in your nose, earrings on your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. You were adorned with gold and silver, while your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidery. You ate the finest flour, honey, and olive oil. You became extremely beautiful and attained the position of royalty. Your fame spread among the nations because of your beauty; your beauty was perfect because of the splendor which I bestowed on you, declares the sovereign Lord.

But you trusted in your beauty and capitalized on your fame by becoming a prostitute. You offered your sexual favors to every man who passed by so that your beauty became his. You took some of your clothing and made for yourself decorated high places; you engaged in prostitution on them. You went to him to become his. You also took your beautiful jewelry, made of my gold and my silver I had given to you, and made for yourself male images and engaged in prostitution with them. You took your embroidered clothing and used it to cover them; you offered my olive oil and my incense to them. As for my food that I gave you— the fine flour, olive oil, and honey I fed you—you placed it before them as a soothing aroma. That is exactly what happened, declares the sovereign Lord. You took your sons and your daughters whom you bore to me and you sacrificed them as food for the idols to eat. As if your prostitution not enough, you slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols. And with all your abominable practices and prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth when you were naked and bare, kicking around in your blood.”

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I. God’s relationship with Israel/ His people
   A. Idolatry is adultery towards God
      i. Jeremiah 13:24-27 (NET)
         "The Lord says, 'That is why I will scatter your people like chaff that is blown away by a desert wind. This is your fate, the destiny to which I have appointed you, because you have forgotten me and have trusted in false gods. So I will pull your skirt up over your face and expose you to shame like a disgraced adulteress! People of Jerusalem, I have seen your adulterous worship, your shameless prostitution to, and your lustful pursuit of, other gods. I have seen your disgusting acts of worship on the hills throughout the countryside. You are doomed to destruction! How long will you continue to be unclean?'"

II. Read or listen to Ezekiel 16:1-43
   A. God shows extreme patience with unfaithful Israel
      i. She built shrines in which to engage in prostitution with His enemies
      ii. She took the wealth He gave her and laid it down as offerings at the feet of her idols/ lovers.
      iii. She became so lewd that she began to pay foreigners— out of her husband’s treasury— to sleep with her.
      iv. She sacrificed the children she bore to her husband on the altars of her idols, offering their blood in worship to them.

III. God shows His character in His relationship with His people
   A. God is slow to anger
      i. Exodus 34:6-7 (NET)
         "The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed: ‘The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. But he by no means leaves the guilty unpunished, responding to the transgression of fathers by dealing with children and children’s children, to the third and fourth generation.’"
   B. When God’s anger is finally ignited, it flares up in a moment
      i. Psalm 2:12 (NIV)
         “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.”
IV. God's Bride must be holy, without blemish— a pure virgin  

A. 1 Corinthians 6:15 (NLT)  
   “Don’t you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which belongs to Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never!”

B. 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NET)  
   “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy, because I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.”

C. This is why God must judge her sin & cleanse her from it  
   i. 1 Peter 4:17-18 (NET)  
      “For it is time for judgment to begin, starting with the house of God. And if it starts with us, what will be the fate of those who are disobedient to the gospel of God? And if the righteous are barely saved, what will become of the ungodly and sinners?”

   ii. Ephesians 5:25-27 (NET)  
      “Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her to sanctify her by cleansing her with the washing of the water by the word, so that he may present the church to himself as glorious - not having a stain or wrinkle, or any such blemish, but holy and blameless.”

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✔ **Check Yourself: The Idol of Entertainment**

“You have heard that it was said to an older generation, 'Do not murder,' and 'whoever murders will be subjected to judgment.' But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment. And whoever insults a brother will be brought before the council, and whoever says 'Fool' will be sent to fiery hell.” -Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” -Matthew 5:27-28

These passages tell us that hating someone is the same as committing murder, and lustling after someone in your heart is the same as committing the sin of adultery.

- Have you tolerated images of adultery or hate coming through your television?
- If you have sacrificed your holiness on the altar of entertainment, then entertainment is your __________________________.
- Have you allowed these images to be introduced to your children?
  - Yes
  - No
- What other sins have you allowed to be portrayed before your children’s eyes?
  ______________________________________________________________________

- **Read the following passages:**
  “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” -Romans 6:23 (NIV)

  “But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death.”
  -James 1:14-15 (NET)

  According to these passages, what will happen to your children if they imitate the sin that they see modeled on your TV?

  If you’re willing to sacrifice the innocence and spiritual purity of your own children—to allow them to be desensitized and indoctrinated with sin, when you know it leads to death— are you not sacrificing their souls on Satan’s altar?

  - Yes
  - No

  If you have done this, what have you received in return for this great sacrifice?____
  ________________________________________________________

  Does this warrant repentance on your part?__________________________________

| 4 |
➢ God is going to show you where you have laid down the things that are important to you— your money, resources, time, and devotion (which are meant for the kingdom) — and sacrificed them on the altar of whatever it is that you idolize.

V. Choose Your Master

A. The root of all of the evil in your life is the love of money.
   i. 1 Timothy 6:10 (NET)
      “For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.”

B. You can't serve God and Money
   i. Luke 16:13 (NIV)
      “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

if you are not able to say “I hate ________________”, then according to Jesus, you hate God— because you can’t have two __________________________. (see 29:36)

if you want to place your trust in anything besides God, God is going to take personal __________________________ at that. You want to place your trust in your own might? Then that is your __________________________. You want to place your trust in your own knowledge, wisdom, and understanding? Then that is your idol— and God is going to __________________________ it down. (see 31:15)

VI. If you idolize something, God won't honor it— He’ll demolish it.

A. Human wisdom and strength.
   i. 1 Corinthians 1:19-21 (NET)
      “For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will thwart the cleverness of the intelligent.' Where is the wise man? Where is the expert in the Mosaic law? Where is the debater of this age? Has God not made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world by its wisdom did not know God, God was pleased to save those who believe by the foolishness of preaching.”
B. Pride
   i. Psalm 138:6 (NIV)
      “Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.”

Jesus is going to require you to do the things that they did in the church in the book of Acts. They were walking in _________________________________ because they were laying down their idols. They were selling their possessions and laying down the _______________ at the feet of the apostles. (see 32:47)

VII. When you are unashamed of your sin, God sees that as lewdness.

   A. 2 Peter 2:13-14 (NIV)
      “They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures while they feast with you. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed— an accursed brood!”

   B. Ezekiel 16:23-27 (NIV)
      “’Woe! Woe to you,’ declares the Sovereign LORD. ’In addition to all your other wickedness, you built a mound for yourself and made a lofty shrine in every public square. At the head of every street you built your lofty shrines and degraded your beauty, offering your body with increasing promiscuity to anyone who passed by. You engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, your lustful neighbors, and provoked me to anger with your increasing promiscuity. So I stretched out my hand against you and reduced your territory; I gave you over to the greed of your enemies, the daughters of the Philistines, who were shocked by your lewd conduct.’”

   C. Ezekiel 16:57b-58 (NIV)
      “Even so, you are now scorned by the daughters of Edom and all her neighbors and the daughters of the Philistines— all those around you who despise you. You will bear the consequences of your lewdness and your detestable practices,' declares the LORD.”
Your idolatry is an ________________________________ action. When you go and invite another lover to come and sleep with you in your husband's ___________________, that is an extreme action. And if you think that there's going to be any chance for you to have a relationship with Him, understand it is going to require an extreme ____________________.

If you committed adultery in your marriage, you'd feel lucky that your spouse took you back. That's the kind of _______________________________ we have to be in as we fast and pray before the Lord. (see 33:15)

VIII. If you trust in the Lord to cleanse you, and if you endure with Him to the end, then He will be successful in perfecting you.

A. Matthew 24:13 (NIV)
   “Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

B. Jude 1:24-25 (NET)
   “Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to cause you to stand, rejoicing, without blemish before his glorious presence, to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time, and now, and for all eternity. Amen.”

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“For you must not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” Exodus 34:14 (NET)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NET) | Sexual Immorality

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God. Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”
I. Why Sex Is Holy
   A. God’s original plan for sex: Adam & Eve
      i. Genesis 2:21-25 (NET)
         “So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep, and while he was asleep, he took part of the man’s side and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the part he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This one at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one will be called “woman,” for she was taken out of man.’ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and unites with his wife, and they become a new family. The man and his wife were both naked, but they were not ashamed.”

   B. This relationship is a shadow of the relationship between Jesus Christ and the church.
      i. Ephesians 1:4a (NIV)
         “For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”
      ii. Ephesians 5:28b-32 (NET)
         “He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one has ever hated his own body but he feeds it and takes care of it, just as Christ also does the church, for we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is great - but I am actually speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”
      iii. 2 Corinthians 11:2 (NET)
         “For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy, because I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.”
      iv. Eve was in Adam. God brought her out of Adam’s side, and then they came back together to become one flesh. In the same way, these scriptures tell us that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, and that we come together to become one with Him.

   It’s important to God that we honor marriage and the marriage ________________, not only because He wants us to honor our physical marriages, but because He wants us to understand the _______________ of the relationship that we have with Jesus Christ, and the _______________ of that relationship. (see 6:00)
C. The Purity Of The Marriage Bed  
   i. Hebrews 13:4 (NIV)  
      “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God  
      will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”  
   ii. In Adam & Eve we see the innocence and holiness of the undefiled  
       relationship between a man and wife— in fact, that they were naked, but  
       had no shame.  
   iii. We also see that Adam and Eve enjoyed a pure and innocent  
       relationship with God, as there was also no shame in that relationship, in spite  
       of the fact that they were naked.  
   iv. Read or listen to Genesis 3:1-11  
   v. Just as the purity and innocence of the marriage bed is turned to shame  
       when an outside person is introduced into it, so the innocence and purity of  
       Adam & Eve’s relationship with God was turned to shame when they allowed  
       another spiritual being— Satan — to come in and master them.  

II. To God, Idolatry Is Adultery  
   A. Ezekiel 23:36b-39  
      “Then confront them with their detestable practices, for they have committed  
      adultery and blood is on their hands. They committed adultery with their idols;  
      they even sacrificed their children, whom they bore to me, as food for them. They  
      have also done this to me: At that same time they defiled my sanctuary and  
      desecrated my Sabbaths. On the very day they sacrificed their children to their  
      idols, they entered my sanctuary and desecrated it. That is what they did in my  
      house.”  

In the garden, when Adam & Eve chose to ___________________________________________ Satan instead  
of God, they introduced ___________________________________________ into the world. What we  
see in Scripture is that to God, idolatry is adultery. (see 7:56)
B. God has the jealous love of a husband. He will not share His wife.
   i. Exodus 34:14 (NET)
      “For you must not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is
      Jealous, is a jealous God.”
   ii. Isaiah 42:8 (NET)
      “I am the Lord! That is my name! I will not share my glory with anyone else,
      or the praise due me with idols.”

The marriage relationship is a very special relationship in which we ________________
our relationship with God is an exclusive relationship. You can have more than one friend,
more than one brother or sister. But when it comes to the husband-wife relationship and
the marriage ________________, there is no room for anybody else. (see 10:24)

If we allow somebody else to come in and break the exclusive nature of that relationship
by bowing down to something else, by ________________ something else—
then to God it is adultery. (see 12:37)

III. We are God’s Temple— God’s Dwelling Place
   A. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NET)
      “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If
      someone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy,
      which is what you are.”
   B. Song of Songs 5:1 (NET)
      “I have entered my garden, O my sister, my bride; I have gathered my myrrh with
      my balsam spice. I have eaten my honeycomb and my honey; I have drunk my
      wine and my milk!”

You are the place that God has chosen to find His ________________. He wants to make
His dwelling place inside of you. God pictures His ________________, his counterpart,
as the place where he makes His home. (see 13:42, 14:04)
IV. Where There Is Idolatry, God's Temple Is Defiled

A. Read or listen to Ezekiel 8:5-18

i. The Israelites broke the exclusive nature of their relationship with God by bringing idols into God's temple.

ii. The result:
   a) God is driven far from His temple
   b) God's jealous wrath is kindled, and he pours out judgment on His temple.

• Proverbs 6:34 (NET)
  “…for jealousy kindles a husband's rage, and he will not show mercy when he takes revenge.”

• Deuteronomy 32:16-18 (NET)
  “They made him jealous with other gods, they enraged him with abhorrent idols. They sacrificed to demons, not God, to gods they had not known; to new gods who had recently come along, gods your ancestors had not known about. You have forgotten the Rock who fathered you, and put out of mind the God who gave you birth.”

B. Bowing down to idols is bowing down to demons

i. 1 Corinthians 10:14, 21-22 (NET)
  “So then, my dear friends, flee from idolatry...You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot take part in the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Or are we trying to provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we really stronger than he is?”

Idolatry is adultery to God. Understand that the way that you use your______________ is an expression of the way that you _________________ God, especially when it comes to _________________. If you do it the way that God prescribed, within the covenant of a marriage, then it is a pure and holy thing, and it is a ________________ of the pure worship we have towards God. But whenever you do it in a way that is not prescribed by God, when you break the ________________ nature of that relationship by exposing yourself to someone that you’re not in that relationship with, then it becomes shame, and you become defiled. (see 21:26)
V. Reflection Time: What’s Your Idol?

A. Colossians 3:5-10 (NET)

“So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it.”

B. 1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NET)

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that anyone who is united with a prostitute is one body with her? For it is said, ‘The two will become one flesh. ’ But the one united with the Lord is one spirit with him. Flee sexual immorality! ‘Every sin a person commits is outside of the body’ - but the immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.”

The reason that God wants you to ________________ down your sexual immorality is because He wants to have a pure and intimate and ________________ relationship with you. (see 24:59)

VI. What God is requiring of you.

1) If you are not married, abstain from sexual relationships until you are.

2) When you are married, keep that relationship pure and undefiled by refusing to go outside of that relationship for sex.
VII. The Consequences Of Keeping Your Idol

A. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NET)

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived! The sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, passive homosexual partners, practicing homosexuals, thieves, the greedy, drunkards, the verbally abusive, and swindlers will not inherit the kingdom of God. Some of you once lived this way. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

✔ Check Yourself

Which of these sins has a hold on your life? Are you willing to pay the consequences in order to keep this pet idol? If not, take some time in prayer today—repent, and to ask God to give you the power to overcome that sin in your life.

Where's THAT in the Bible?

- A husband's rage | Proverbs 6:34
- God's jealous love | Exodus 34:14
- God's Word does not come back void |
- God won't share glory | Isaiah 42:8
- God's original plan for sex | Gen 2:21-25
- The Bride is a garden | SOS 5:1
- Christ and His Bride | Ephesians 5:22-33
- We're God's temple | 1 Cor 3:16-17
- Keep the marriage bed pure | Hebrews 13:4
- Made God Jealous w/ idols | Deut 32:16-18
- Adam & Eve sin | Genesis 3:1-11
- Flee from sexual immorality | Col 3:5-10
- Idolatry=Adultery | Ezekiel 23: 36-39
- The consequences of idolatry | 1 Cor 6:9-11
Week 3 | Tearing Down the Idols

Day 13 | Wednesday
Tic Toc Miracle Caught On Tape

Daily Notecard

“Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.'”
Matthew 14:16 (NIV)

Focus Scripture

Matthew 14:14-21 (NIV) | Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

“When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,' they answered. 'Bring them here to me,' he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.”
!!CHALLENGE!!

Do miracles still happen today? In the video, “Tic Toc Miracle Caught On Tape,” you will see real-life footage from one of the first Tic Toc feedings, as I share with you the miraculous way that God provided everything we needed, step by step, to feed the people at the hotels we were serving that night!

Your challenge today, as you read your Bible study assignments and spend time in prayer, is to decide what you’re going to do to extend your resources and hospitality THIS WEEK to those who are in need! As you reflect on what you can do in the short term, ask God to put a vision in your heart— as an individual or as a small group— of a particular service or kindness He would like for you to commit to on a long-term basis.

Remember to click on the “I’ve made a decision” button to let me know what you’ve decided— I can’t wait to hear from you! God bless you as you make these important decisions today!
“For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains.” 1 Timothy 6:10 (NET)

**Focus Scriptures**

**Luke 16:13 (NET) | Can’t Serve God & Mammon**

“No servant can serve two masters, for 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 God and money.”

**Luke 14:33 (NET) | Renounce Your Possessions**

“In the same way therefore not one of you can be my disciple if he does not renounce all his own possessions.”
Today, you are going to focus your energy on taking a **real action** to combat a **real idol** in your life—Mammon (money)!

- **1 Timothy 6:10** tells us that the “root of all evils” is the love of money. Some of you are saying, “Well, that scripture is talking about the love of money, not money itself.”—Okay! If you don’t love your money, then your challenge today is to ask God to test you.

**Psalm 26:1-3 (NET)**

“Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have integrity, and I trust in the Lord without wavering. Examine me, O Lord, and test me! Evaluate my inner thoughts and motives! For I am ever aware of your faithfulness, and your loyalty continually motivates me.”

**Psalm 139:23-24 (NET)**

“Examine me, and probe my thoughts! Test me, and know my concerns! See if there is any idolatrous tendency in me, and lead me in the reliable ancient path!”

- God knows that the only way you are going to completely desecrate the altar of your idol is to take what you used to offer on that altar, and lay it down on His.

**What God wants you to do TODAY:**

1) **Do what they did in the Acts church:**

   **Acts 4:32-35 (NIV)**
   
   “All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.”

2) **Do what Jesus said to do:**

   **Luke 14:33 (NET)**
   
   “In the same way therefore not one of you can be my disciple if he does not renounce all his own possessions.”

{2}
Where does God want you to give today?

1) Galatians 6:6 (NET)
   “Now the one who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with the one who teaches it.”

!!Call To Action!!

1) Make a donation to this ministry today.
2) Make a commitment to give a regular tithe (10% of your income), or to set up a regular payment.
3) Sell an investment or a piece of property, and donate the proceeds to this ministry.
4) When determining how much you’re going to give, remember how much Jesus gave to you when He hung on the cross. If He was willing to empty His veins for us, surely we should not hesitate to empty our pocketbooks for Him— and for the kingdom He died to establish! As He said to His disciples in Luke 12:32-34 (NIV):

   “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

God bless you as you begin your new lifestyle of radical giving today!
Week 3 | Tearing Down the Idols

Day 15 | Friday
Identify Your Idol: Tearing Down The Altars

Daily Notecard

“Each of you, get rid of the vile images you have set your eyes on, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” Ezekiel 20:7b (NIV)

Viewer Guide

Focus Scripture

2 Kings 23:24-25 (NET) | Josiah Desecrates Idols

“Josiah also got rid of the ritual pits used to conjure up spirits, the magicians, personal idols, disgusting images, and all the detestable idols that had appeared in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. In this way he carried out the terms of the law recorded on the scroll that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the Lord’s temple. No king before or after repented before the Lord as he did, with his whole heart, soul, and being in accordance with the whole law of Moses.”

READ YOUR BIBLE!

To LISTEN to your assignment or read online CLICK HERE.

- Proverbs 4
- Exodus 10
- Exodus 11

I. King Josiah
   A. Josiah discovers the lost book of the covenant
      i. Read or listen to 2 Kings 22:1-12
      ii. What was Josiah's reaction when he realized that he and His people had violated their covenant with God?

   B. Josiah seeks the council of the prophetess
      i. Read or listen to 2 Kings 22:13-20

   C. Josiah desecrates the altars of Israel's idols
      i. Read or listen to 2 Kings chapter 23
II. Gideon
   A. God calls Gideon
      i. Read or listen to Judges 6:1-24
      ii. What excuse did Gideon give to God as to why he wasn't qualified to lead Israel?
          
          Did God accept Gideon's excuse?

   ✔ Check Yourself
   Have you ever made excuses similar to Gideon's?______________________________.
   Do you think that God is going to accept your excuses as He calls you today?______

   B. Starting At Home: Gideon Desecrates his family's altar to Baal
      i. Read or listen to Judges 6:25-40

   C. God gives Gideon victory
      i. Read or listen to Judges chapter 7

III. Modern Idols
   A. An idol is something you obey instead of God
      i. Romans 6:16 (NET)
         “Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?”
      ii. John 8:34 (NET)
         “Jesus answered them, 'I tell you the solemn truth, everyone who practices sin is a slave of sin.’”

   B. Identify your idol
      i. Colossians 3:5-10 (NET)
         “So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience. You also lived your lives in this way at one time, when you used to live among them. But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another since you have put off the old man with its practices and have been clothed with the new man that is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of the one who created it.’’
ii. Commonly overlooked idols
   a) Greed
      • Colossians 3:5 (NET)
        “So put to death whatever in your nature belongs to the earth: sexual immorality, impurity, shameful passion, evil desire, and greed which is idolatry.”
   b) Adultery/ Sexual Immorality
      • Matthew 5:27-28 (NET)
        “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to desire her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
   c) Slander
      • Matthew 5:21-22 (NLT)
        “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’ But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.”

✔ Check Yourself

Which of the sins on this list are you currently practicing? ______________________________

______________________________

______________________________

According to John 8:34 (above), if you have these sins in your life, what does that make you? ________________________________.

Think about God’s response to King Josiah. As you identify these idols in your life, what response is God looking for from you? ________________________________.
IV. How To Desecrate The Altar Of Your Idol  
A. Confess your sin/ Repent of your idolatry  
   i. Psalm 32:3-6a (NET)  
      “When I refused to confess my sin, my whole body wasted away, while I groaned in pain all day long. For day and night you tormented me; you tried to destroy me in the intense heat of summer. (Selah) Then I confessed my sin; I no longer covered up my wrongdoing. I said, ‘I will confess my rebellious acts to the Lord.’ And then you forgave my sins. (Selah) For this reason every one of your faithful followers should pray to you while there is a window of opportunity.”  
   ii. James 5:16 (NET)  
      “So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.”

B. Starting with you and your family, make it known that your former idols are no longer acceptable.  
   i. Joshua 24:15 (NIV)  
      “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

C. Stop sacrificing on that altar— make no provision for your sin.  
   i. Romans 13:12-14 (NET)  
      “The night has advanced toward dawn; the day is near. So then we must lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the weapons of light. Let us live decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.”

D. Take the resources you used to spend on your idol, and lay them down on God’s altar instead.  
   i. What resources did you used to sacrifice on the altar of your idol? (check all that apply)  
      □ Your time  
      □ Your money  
      □ Your relationships  
      □ Your affection
V. What To Expect When You Tear Down The Altars
A. Persecution from people who love idols
   i. Judges 6:28-30 (NET)
   “When the men of the city got up the next morning, they saw the Baal altar pulled down, the nearby Asherah pole cut down, and the second bull sacrificed on the newly built altar. They said to one another, ‘Who did this?’ They investigated the matter thoroughly and concluded that Gideon son of Joash had done it. The men of the city said to Joash, ‘Bring out your son, so we can execute him! He pulled down the Baal altar and cut down the nearby Asherah pole.’”
   ii. 1 Peter 4:3-4 (NIV)
   “For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.”

B. Blessing and victory from God
   i. 2 Chronicles 34:26-28A (NET)
   “Say this to the king of Judah, who sent you to seek an oracle from the Lord: ‘This is what the Lord God of Israel says concerning the words you have heard: “You displayed a sensitive spirit and humbled yourself before God when you heard his words concerning this place and its residents. You humbled yourself before me, tore your clothes and wept before me, and I have heard you,” says the Lord. “Therefore I will allow you to die and be buried in peace. You will not have to witness all the disaster I will bring on this place and its residents.’”
   ii. Judges 6:14-16 (NET)
   “Then the Lord himself turned to him and said, ‘You have the strength. Deliver Israel from the power of the Midianites! Have I not sent you?’ Gideon said to him, ‘But Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Just look! My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my family.’ The Lord said to him, ‘Ah, but I will be with you! You will strike down the whole Midianite army.”
   iii. James 4:7 (NET)
   “So submit to God. But resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
Make The Commitment!

Take some time right now for reflection. Ask God to help you identify your idol(s). Write them down. ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ 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Week 3 | Tearing Down The Altars

Weekend Homework

~Week 3~

Saturday

READ YOUR BIBLE!

To LISTEN to your assignment or read online CLICK HERE.

☐ Proverbs, chapter 5
☐ Exodus, chapter 12
☐ Exodus, chapter 13

Sunday

READ YOUR BIBLE!

To LISTEN to your assignment or read online CLICK HERE.

☐ Proverbs, chapter 6
☐ Exodus, chapter 14
☐ Exodus, chapter 15

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