

SERMON NOTES

Better Living: Holiness is an Issue of the Heart

John 8:31-32

31 “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Matthew 22:35-40

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

Hebrews 12:14

14 Pursue peace with all people, and Holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Exodus 8:20-24

20 And the Lord said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me. 21 Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. 22 And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the Lord in the midst of the land. 23 I will make a Difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be." ' ' " 24 And the Lord did so...

Main Point: Idols Are in Your Heart (They are Not just little statues)

Ezekiel 14:1-11

1 Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. 2 And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 3 "Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

4 "Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, 5 that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols." ' "

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. 7 For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself. 8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

9 “And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. 10 And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, 11 that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God,” says the Lord God.’ ”

Exodus 20:4

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image...”

Subpoint #1: Idols in our hearts will cause presumption

Ezekiel 14:3

3 “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity.

Romans 13:14

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make NO provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Matthew 4:5-7

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.' "

Matthew 6: 24

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Subpoint #2: Idols in our hearts will cause estrangement

Ezekiel 14: 5

5 that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols."

Estrangement: Hebrew word “zuwr” - a woman who is married, but is living with another man in an adulterous relationship

Jeremiah 3:6

6 The Lord said also to me in the days of Josiah the king: “Have you seen what backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot.

Jeremiah 3:9

9 So it came to pass, through her casual harlotry, that she defiled the land and committed adultery with stones and trees

Jeremiah 3: 14

14 “Return, O backsliding children,” says the Lord; “for I am married to you...”

Subpoint #3: Idols in our hearts will cause spiritual deafness

Ezekiel 14:7

7 For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who SEPARATES himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself

Isaiah 59:2

2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Subpoint #4: Idols in our hearts will cause consequences

Ezekiel 14:10

10 And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired

Actors: 2 Greek Words: Hypo and Crite
Hippa means underneath and Crite means to speak...
it means to speak from underneath...underneath the mask

Matthew 6:24
24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
