



MOUNTAIN OF FIRE AND MIRACLES MINISTRIES

International Headquarters, Lagos.

MONDAY SPIRITUAL HOSPITAL (BIBLE STUDIES - 42ND SERIES)

WE WRESTLE (Part 2)

LECTURE 13—IDOLATRY

MEMORY VERSE: Exodus 20:3- *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”*

TEXT: Exodus 20:3-6; Exodus 34:17; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 7:25; Psalm 16:4; 1Corinthians 10:14.

INTRODUCTION: From the beginning, God's covenant with Israel was based on exclusive worship of Him alone (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7). The Israelites were not even to mention the names of false gods (Exodus 23:13) because to do so would acknowledge their existence and give credence to their power and influence over the people. Israel was forbidden to intermarry with other cultures who embraced false gods, because God knew this would lead to compromise. The book of Hosea uses the imagery of adultery to describe Israel's continual chasing after other gods, like an unfaithful wife chases after other men. The history of Israel is a sad chronicle of idol worship, punishment, restoration and forgiveness, followed by a return to idolatry. The books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, and 1 & 2 Chronicles reveal this destructive pattern. The Old Testament prophets endlessly prophesied dire consequences for Israel if they continued in their idolatry. Mostly, they were ignored until it was too late and God's wrath against idol-worship was poured out on the nation. But ours is a merciful God, and He never failed to forgive and restore them when they repented and sought His forgiveness.

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

1. Idolatry, according to Webster, is “the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing.”
2. Idolatry is the worship of someone or something other than God as though it were God.
3. Idolatry is anything that replaces the true God.
4. It is image-worship or divine honour paid to any created object.
5. Idolatry is a satanic programme to control the land, family and people.
6. It is an abomination.
7. It is contending with and rebelling against God.
8. It promotes worship of gods and false worship of God.
9. It's a spiritual prostitution.
10. It is marriage with demons,
11. it is anything you worship outside the God of Heaven through Jesus Christ.
12. It is anything you place before God or beside God.
13. It is anything you esteem higher than the living God.

SOME FORMS OF IDOLATRY

1. **Fetishism** - the worship of trees, rivers, hills, stones, etc.
2. **Nature worship** - the worship of the sun, moon, and stars, as the supposed powers of nature.
3. **Hero worship** - the worship of deceased ancestors, or of heroes.

SOME MODERN FORMS OF IDOLATRY

Most people today who have any concept of idolatry probably think of pagans bowing down and worshipping a strange-looking idol—a carved image or statue. That's part of what idolatry means, but since most Christians today don't do that, how do God's commands against idolatry apply to Christians now?

In Colossians 3:5; “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry.” Apostle Paul provides us with a modern application of idolatry in the middle of a sentence in his letter to the Colossians. He mentions “covetousness which is idolatry.” So, idolatry is not just worshipping a statue, carving or painting.

- Idolatry is when we begin to value anything more than we value God.
- Idolatry is the thing or the person you loved more than God, wanted more than God, desired more than God, treasured more than God, enjoyed more than God.
- It could be money, position, fame, husband or wife.
- It could be good grades.
- It could be the approval of other people.
- It could be success in business.
- It could be sexual stimulation.
- It could be a hobby or a musical group that you are following or a sport or your immaculate yard.
- If we spend more time thinking about our hero than God, that's idolatry.

- If our every thought is about the latest gadget or our personal appearance, that's idolatry.
- If the first priority in our lives is money, fame, riches, position, even our family, it is idolatry.

When God said, **"You shall have no other gods before me"** (Exodus 20:3), He wasn't just talking about the imaginary deities that seem so ridiculous to us today. He was talking about anything that is taking His place as number one in our hearts. The solution to this problem is as simple (and as difficult) as Christ's admonition in Matthew 6:33: **"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

CHARACTERISTICS OF IDOLS

1. Idols are blind and deaf-Deut. 4:28,
2. Idols are perishable-Jer. 10:11
3. Idols are helpless-Isa. 45:20
4. Idols are unworthy of worship- Acts 17:29
5. Idols are corruptible- Rom. 1:22-23
6. Idols are works of error- Jer. 10:15
7. Idols are works of human hands- Ps. 115:4
8. Idols are insensitive-Ps. 115:5-8.

NAMES OF FEW IDOLS IN THE SCRIPTURE

- a. Baal-1 Kings 18:1-46
- b. Belzebub- Matt. 12:24
- c. Dagon-1 Sam. 5:1-12
- d. Diana or Artemis-Acts 19: 34 - 41
- e. Jupiter -Acts 14:12
- f. Mercury-Acts 14:12
- g. Merodach -Jer. 50:2
- h. Molech-1 Kings 11:7
- i. Nebo-Isa. 46:1

SYMPTOMS OF IDOLATRY

1. General blockage
2. Spiritual blockage
3. Iron like attacks
4. Roundabout life
5. Strange and untimely death
6. Physical grip while you are sleeping
7. Evil name summons
8. Destiny demotion
9. Scratches on the body
10. Unexplainable loss of property
11. Rough & turbulent marriages, cobweb covering

CONSEQUENCES OF IDOLATRY

1. Judgment on idolatry is unto the fourth generation- Exo. 20:5
2. It brings curses- Psalm 106:19-20,
3. Idolatry is hereditary- Hebrew 7:7-10,
4. It brings the land and people under serious bondage

because of the altars and high places that are raised- Lev. 18:24-30

5. Idolatry blinds men to the truth of the gospel by bringing a covering over people & the environment.
6. Idols will make people sacrifice their children and so bring death to the young ones.
7. God fishes out and hunts idolaters for punishments-Jer.16:16-18.
8. Idolatry rapidly destroys a nation-Jer. 16:19-20
9. Idolatry cries against one's life and destiny.

WAY OUT

1. Repent of all your sins and the sins of your forefathers
2. Find out the names of the idols of your father's house.
3. If you know their names, mention them specifically, but if you don't know them, you can pray generally against them. It's good to do a research and find out their names.
4. Use the blood of Jesus to break their evil covenant.
5. This is because they operate by forming covenants.
6. Carry out spiritual warfare against the evil idols.
7. Bind and cast out the spirits behind them & deliver yourself.
8. Do prophetic prayers to reclaim lost grounds.

The bible has terrible words for families or lives that practice idolatry. From one generation that is worshipping idols, the punishment goes up to four generations. If before the four generations expire, there is another idol worshipper among them, more 4 generations are added.

CONCLUSION: If you are a careful bible reader, you will discover that 90% of the anger of God was caused by idolatry. Idolatry extends beyond the worship of idols and images and false gods. **Our modern idols are many and varied.** Even for those who do not bow physically before a statue, idolatry is a matter of the heart—pride, self-centeredness, greed, gluttony, a love for possessions and ultimately rebellion against God.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every strange fire prepared by family idols against me, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every shrine containing my name be wasted, in the name of Jesus.
3. Powers of the idols of my father's house, standing against my success, die, in the name of Jesus.