

KEEP TALKING

In this message, Pastor Todd helped us uncover the subtle idols that can capture our hearts. Use this guide to keep talking about how to redirect your worship to the only One worthy of it all.

SERMON HIGHLIGHTS

- An **idol** is anything — even a good thing — that when it becomes the main thing, it becomes a bad thing.
- Sometimes our biggest idols began as our greatest blessings.
- When you worship the wrong thing it will lead you down the wrong path.
- Idols always overpromise and underdeliver.
- When God feels silent, we usually look for a substitute. When God seems distant, we often look to something else to deliver us.
- Our modern day idols usually don't look evil — they look essential.
- Cycle of idolatry:
 - Starts with a blessing
 - Blessing leads to complacency
 - Complacency leads to compromise
 - Compromise leads to idolatry
 - Idolatry leads to bondage

KEY SCRIPTURES

- Exodus 20:1-5
- 1 John 5:21
- 1 Corinthians 10:14
- Exodus 32:1-6
- Exodus 4:22-23
- Matthew 19:21-22
- Matthew 6:24
- Deuteronomy 8:13-14

START TALKING

- What's something you've spent way more time, energy, or money on than you ever expected you would (i.e., youth sports, technology, a home project, etc.)?

KEEP TALKING

- If someone looked at your calendar or bank statement right now, what might they guess is *most important* to you?
- The Israelites' impatience led them to make an idol in the wilderness. When God seems to be moving slowly in your situation, what are you most tempted to turn to or take control of yourself?
- Read Deuteronomy 8:13-14. Why do you think times of blessing sometimes make it easier for our hearts to drift from God? How can you guard against this when life is going good?
- The gold used to make the idol was actually a gift from God. What gifts have you turned into gods in the past? What was the result?
- Pastor Todd said, "If you can't put it on the altar, it's probably an idol." Is there anything in your life right now that might be difficult to give up if God asked you to place it on the altar? What could a step of surrender look like this week (i.e., reordering priorities, creating more space for time with God, releasing control of something, deleting an app, etc.)?

KEEP IT GOING

- Pastor Todd gave us three questions to wrestle with as we work through what idols we have allowed into our lives. Spend time this week reflecting on these questions and ask God to reveal what you need to release so you can receive more of Him.
 - Does this lead me closer to God or distract me from Him?
 - Do I rely on this thing more than God for my comfort, identity, or self-worth?
 - If God asked me to give it up, would I give it up without hesitation?

PRAYER

Father, you are the only One worthy of all our worship. We're sorry for the times we've wandered from you and given our worship to something else. Show us the idols we've allowed into our hearts. Give us the wisdom to seek you above everything. You are our gift, and knowing you is our goal. Amen.