

Rest - Tearing Down Idols

Matt VanCleave

September 3rd, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will rest on a weekly basis.
- I will read the gospel of John, reflecting on the life and teachings of Jesus.
- I will take time to reflect at the end of the day.
- I will engage in an activity that recreates me.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The vast majority of the people in our society are inundated with work and other obsessions that have replaced a true relationship with Jesus. Jesus' enemy is not opposition, persecution, or threatened poverty. It's busyness, fatigue, over-commitment, saying yes to too much, and running too fast. In this message, you will be encouraged to eliminate whatever is robbing you of living the life Jesus is calling you to live.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 11:28-19; If you are already weary and burdened why does Jesus say to take on another burden (his yoke) and then you will find rest for your souls?

2. I Kings 22:43 says, "In everything Jehosephat followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. The high places however, were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. What was the result of Jehosephat NOT removing the high places (idols)?
Hint: the result was experienced in his son's reign in II Kings 8:16-18

3. Acts 12:23 tells us, "Immediately because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died." When you think about your own work situation, do you acknowledge God and ask Him to be the Lord of everything you do at your job?

4. Read I Corinthians 4:3-4. Do you ever struggle with striving for the approval of others more than God's approval of your life? How does this play out in your life?

5. Read Matthew 6:25-27 What does God tell us to do when we worry about money and provision for our lives?

6. In Luke 12:20-21 Jesus tells the parable of the Rich Fool. What happened to the Rich Fool?

7. Have you ever felt the Lord asking you to give sacrificially? What did you do in response? What did you learn from that experience?

8. Pastor Matt told the story of Simon the Sorcerer in Acts 8. This was directed at all who serve in some capacity in the church. Simon wanted to be and look spiritual for all the wrong reasons, and not because he wanted to please God. Proverbs 21:2 says, "All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart." Have you ever asked God to "Weigh your heart" to discover your true motivation for serving in the church?

9. Pastor Matt's message was about acknowledging the idols we have in our lives: 1) work achievement, 2) approval of others, 3) money and provision, 4) serving in the church from a wrong motivation, and any other idols. In Exodus 20 God gave us the Ten Commandments and the first 2 Commandments tell us that God wants to be first place in our lives without any other idols. What does God want us to do with any idols we have in our lives?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will commit to live a simpler life.
- I will identify which idol I wrestle with most and eliminate it from my life.
- I will not bow down to the idol of approval.
- I will give and serve and trust God with my future.
- I will put knowing and loving God above doing good works.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 11:28-29
- 1 Kings 22:43
- Acts 12:19-23
- 1 Corinthians 4:3-4
- Matthew 6:26
- Luke 12:13-21
- Colossians 3:23
- Acts 8

Prayer Request(s)
