



Part 10: Tear It Down

Pastor Grant Fishbook

March 19 & 20, 2011

Last Week on the Road Out

You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. – *Exodus 20:4-6*

While Moses is Away

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

– *Exodus 32:1-4*

How do I identify an idol?

- An idol is anything in my life that competes with God
- An idol demands: Repetitious contact
 - Large amounts of time
 - Personal attention
 - Control
 - An emotional response
 - Payment
- An idol is always surrounded by excuses and rationalization (Exodus 32:24)

Modern Day Idols

- The god of materialism (Luke 12:15)
- The god of success (Luke 14:11)
- The god of identity (John 1:12)
- The god of relationships (I Corinthians 2:2)
- The god of intellect (Romans 1:25)

(Continues on back)

How do I deal with an idol?

- Be proactive – don't build the altar
- See it, shred it, crush it (Exodus 32:20)
- Replace the space with a renewed commitment to Jesus
- Seek forgiveness and cleansing

The Beauty of a Life Free from Idols

As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the LORD spoke with Moses. Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to their tent. The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. – *Exodus 33:9-11*

Next Steps

This week, take some time to identify one possible idol in your life. Refer to the section "How do I identify an idol?" on the front of this outline to help you get started. Once you identify an idol, start practicing the principles above to begin breaking free from it.

Small Group Questions



1. Who was your childhood hero? Why?
2. What process have you seen when people allow a good thing to become a "god thing" (a little "g" god – an idol).
3. Can you identify your golden calf? Would you trust your group enough to share the thing that is stealing your attention from God?
4. What is your plan to deal with your idol, and how do you need people to help you?
5. Have you asked God to remove and cleanse the place of your idolatry? How about right now?
6. How can we pray for you today?