

LESSON 15: WHY SOME MARRIAGES DON'T CHANGE

Intro:

BIG IDEA: Grace _____ those who _____ their _____.

⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. Jonah 2 (ESV)

⁸ “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. Jonah 2 (NIV)

- Our relationship with God is governed, regulated, but a _____.
- God himself compares this to a _____ covenant. Each side has _____.
- Deuteronomy stresses God's _____ to encourage our _____.
- God _____ many of their sins thru the _____ system.
- These sacrifices were _____; preparing them for & pointing to Christ's work.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.
Deuteronomy 30

God Offers Grace to All Who Worship Him

- Loving God is revealed as _____ in His ways, or _____ His commands.
- John 15: a _____ of love => _____ => _____
- Israelites who were faithful received _____ and lived long in the _____.
- We are called to _____ to God, not to worthless idols.
- As we _____ God's commands are good & seek to obey, _____ comes to help us.
- God gives us many & great _____ blessings through our _____ with Jesus.
- Receiving grace isn't about a _____, but flows from our union with Christ by faith.
- Jesus gives us this grace thru the powerful working of the _____.
- The Spirit who raised Jesus from the _____ is able to transform and _____ us.
- Additionally we have access to the Father in _____ due to Christ's work.

Why don't we experience this?

Idols Distract Us from the God of Grace

- We are prone to cling to things beside Jesus, _____ them & _____ on them.
- In Deut. 30 we see that forsaking God is to _____ grace & therefore to _____.
- Jeremiah 2 is rooted in Deuteronomy 30. They forsook the fountain for broken cisterns.
- A fountain of running water had an _____ supply of fresh, _____ water.
- Cisterns _____ water which can become _____ & _____.
- Worse, these cisterns were _____. They leaked water.
- Jonah's in the belly of the whale because out of _____ & _____ He disobeyed God.
- Jonah forsook God & _____ the idols of his _____.
- Marriage brings our idols to the _____. We either let go of them or cling to them.
- Out of fear & pride you will call on your idols to _____ and _____ you.

Idols Have No Grace to Give

- They are worthless precisely because they have no _____ to _____ us.
- They don't help us _____ with _____ by faith, but pull us _____ from Him.
- They have not _____ for our sins, they just demand _____ which will kill us.

Idols Keep Us from the True Source of Grace

- We can only give our _____ to so many _____.
- _____: you can only do one thing at a time. Spiritual _____ vs. _____.
- Our daily choices show us our _____ idols.

Case Study:

Idols Bring Death, not Life

- Marriages change over time. There are phases or seasons. _____ is _____.
- Couples need to continually work to _____ the new _____ of balance.
- When we pursue idols, driven by _____ & _____, we don't seek grace to _____.
- We turn marriage into an attempt to live _____ instead of the _____.

Marriage: A Practical Theology

- His story isn't necessarily the _____ as her story: _____.
- This conflict is an _____ to recognize our idols and turn from them.

Discovering Your Idols

- _____ your spouse.
- _____ life. Is it _____ by a 1 or 2 things? Is there only one _____?
- Anger: _____ you anger back, especially when you _____ - _____.
- Arguments: what are the _____? The Cone of _____
- Ask God! _____ the Scriptures and _____ for Him to show you.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting! **Psalm 139**

Forsake Your Idols!

- In the belly of the whale Jonah finally _____ his problem & _____ it.
- Ninevah, warned of God's wrath, _____ from their sin for a season.
- Jonah: _____ of Christ, who entered the belly of the earth for OUR sin to _____ us.
- Jesus came, in part, to _____ us from our idols before they _____ us.
- _____ from idols is not once for all. Jonah _____ with idols on the hill.
- He was angry God _____ them. He was angry about the shade _____ dying.
- Your heart, the idol factory, will turn to _____ idols or old ones in new _____.
- Heeding God's _____ & _____ need that you & your marriage will change.

Conclusion: