
Surrendering Your Substitutes

Series: 40 Days of Purpose—Worship

Jeremiah 2:10-13 (NIV)

Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this:

¹¹*Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols.*

¹²*Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord.*

¹³*"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

1. ANYTHING THAT STANDS BETWEEN GOD AND ME BECOMES MY IDOL.

v. 11b "...But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols."

Romans 1:22-23 (NIV)

Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

- God jealously guards his relationship with us.

Exodus 34:14 (NIV)

Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

- I must guard my relationship with God.
- I need to pay attention to what gets my attention.

2. IDOL WORSHIP BRINGS GRIEF TO GOD.

v. 13 "My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

Exodus 20:3 (NIV)

"You shall have no other gods before me.

- Idols always cause me to go after the counterfeit in place of the real thing.
- When God is not first in my life, I have replaced Him with an idol.
- My broken relationship with God always brings Him grief.

3. BY SURRENDERING MY SUBSTITUTES FOR GOD, I CAN WORSHIP GOD WITH FREEDOM.

Mark 7:6-8 (NLT)

Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was prophesying about you when he said, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far away. Their worship is a farce, for they replace God's commands with their own man-made teachings.' For you ignore God's specific laws and substitute your own traditions."

James 4:7 (CEV)

Surrender to God! Resist the devil, and he will run from you.

When I place God first in my life:

- There is tremendous freedom.
- There is great joy.
- There is overwhelming peace