

Cover Verse: 1 Samuel 12:24

Sermon Title: An Idol for a King

Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 8

Main Point: Idolatry occurs when your personal desires replace your worship of God.

Proposition: Three signs idolatry has replaced your worship of God

1. You reject the authority of God's reign (1-8)
2. You refuse to listen to God's wisdom (9-19)
3. You fail to remember God's goodness (20-22)

Application: Find hope in the grace of God (12:19-25)

- Confess your sins specifically (v.19)
- Repent of your sins regularly (vv.20-21)
- Listen to God's Word carefully (vv.22-23)
- Fear & follow God faithfully (v.24)
- Remember God's goodness constantly (vv.24-25)

Recommended Resources:

*Gospel Treason* by Brad Bigney

*Idols of the Heart* by Elyse Fitzpatrick

*Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-idolatry>

<https://rw360.org/getting-to-the-heart-of-conflict/>

<https://www.biblicalcounselingcoalition.org/2014/03/03/the-idolatrous-heart/>

Group Questions

1. Are you currently struggling with the idolatry of a personal desire that has taken control of your life? Take some time to answer each of the following questions: 1) Whose authority am I rejecting? 2) Who am I refusing to listen to? 3) What am I failing to remember? How do these questions help you think about this personal desire?
2. How does our desire to be like others fuel our greater pursuit of idols? How did this show itself for the Israelites (hint: read verse 5)? Why is this a dangerous mentality for God's people?
3. In what ways do you see sin blinding you to the truth and warnings of God's Word? How has sin deceived you into pursuing desires that are contrary to God's will?
4. In what ways have you experienced the goodness of God in your own life? Why is it often easier to forget than to remember the ways God has been good to you? Why is this often the first step towards idolatry?
5. Consider the hope that is found in 1 Samuel 12:19-25. Of the applications provided, which do you consider yourself particularly weak? What steps can you take this week to better tap into God's grace?