

A New Heart—No More Idols

Study Questions

Ezekiel 8:8-18

Warm-up

1) Do you have any hobbies or interests you spend a fair bit of time on? What do you like most about them—what makes them worth your time, money, and attention?

A little deeper

2) [Ezekiel 8:8-11] God showed Ezekiel a vision of the elders of Israel at the shrines of their own idols. **What are some of the idols that people put their faith in today?**

One of the idols listed in this week's sermon was religion—how have you seen religion become an idol?

3) [Ezekiel 8:12] The elders of Israel think they are hidden in darkness, and that God has forsaken the land anyway. **When it comes to believers turning to idols, which do you think usually comes first: turning to an idol or losing faith in God? How do you think losing faith in God relates to people trying to operate in darkness and secrecy?**

4) [Ezekiel 8:13-18] Prominent Israelites were acting faithlessly in their nation's capital, to the point that the nation wasn't taking God seriously. **What place does government have with respect to its people's relationships with God?**

What place do *leaders* have with respect to their people's relationships with God?

Bringing it home

5) Is there anything in your life that has the danger of rising beyond the level of a hobby, passion, or discipline—becoming more important to you than your relationship with God?

6) Is there a part of your life where you feel that God's power will never enter? If so, why?

Is there anything that might change your feelings about how God wants to be involved in that part of your life?

7) What people, groups, and/or writings do you look to for guidance on how to think or live your life? How do you ensure that these influences don't become a substitute for your active relationship with our living God?