Introduction

What comes to mind when you think about idolatry?

Their idols were visible, but what about us?

We have our own gods of money, sex and power.

So what do we do?

I. Recognize and remove the idols in our lives. Joshua 24:1-13

Joshua reminds them of their history and who it is that brought them into this land.

Joshua called them to worship the One True God.

What are the idols in our lives?

- An idol is anything more important to you than God.
- It is anything you seek to give you what only God can give.
- An idol is whatever you look to for security, comfort, meaning and significance other than God.

II. Follow the Lord with all our heart. Joshua 24:14-18

God comes first.

“You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.” Luke 22:37-38

Joshua challenged the people to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully.

Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped.

It is a choice we make every day to honor God and live for him.

Art DeMoss chose to honor the Lord by giving him:

- The first day of every week.
- The first hour of every day.
• The first fruits of all he made.

God came first in his life and work.

Have you made that commitment too?

III. We need to rely on his grace and power. Joshua 24:19-27

“We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

Joshua asked them to count the cost, just like Jesus did with those who followed him.

“Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?” Luke 9:23-25

We need to count the cost of not following him too.

We can’t do this in our own strength. We need his grace and power.

The key to the Christian life is to abide in Christ.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

What do we gain when we put God first in our life?

“I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29-30

Conclusion

What are the idols in your heart?

What’s holding you back from following the Lord completely?

Will you surrender everything to God and follow him with all your heart?

Father, I want to know Thee, but my coward heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding, and I do not try to hide from Thee the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that Thou may enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shall Thou make the place of Thy feet glorious. Then shall my heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for Thyself will be the light of it, and there shall be no night there. In Jesus’ name, Amen. A. W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God