

## 6. My financial giving reveals the truth about the place God holds in my life.

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 (ESV)*

*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money. Matthew 6:24 (ESV)*

*I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah Psalm 32:5 (ESV)*

### Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. What things do we often love more than God? What does it look like to put God first in these areas?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:5-14.**
  1. According to verses 7-10, why did God let the first generation of Israelites die in the wilderness without reaching the Promised Land? (See Numbers 14:22-29.) What can we learn from their lives?
  2. What idols did they worship? What were the consequences? (See Numbers 25:1-9.)
  3. What are the results of not recognizing and repenting of idolatry?
  4. Where do grumbling and complaining come from?
3. **Read 1 Kings 9:4-7; 1 Kings 11:5, 9-11.** What made such a wise man so stupid that he broke the first commandment?
  1. **Read 1 Kings 6:38b and 1 Kings 7:1.** What does this tell us about what turned away Solomon's heart? What can we learn from this part of his life?
  2. **Read Deuteronomy 17:17 and 1 Kings 11:1-3.** What does this tell us about Solomon's life? What can we learn from his mistake?
  3. **Read Deuteronomy 17:16 and 1 Kings 10:26-29.** What does this tell us about Solomon? What can we learn from this part of his life?



## Command 1 – Have No Other Gods Before Me

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— After God set his people free he gave them Ten Commandments to keep His people free.

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:2-3 (ESV)*

### 1. What was religion like in Egypt?

*And I said to them, 'Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.' But they rebelled against me and were not willing to listen to me. None of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt. "Then I said I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. Ezekiel 20:7-9 (ESV)*

### 2. Why does God insist on exclusive worship?

#### 1. Idols can do nothing.

*Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good." Jeremiah 10:5 (ESV)*

## 2. Demons are behind idols.

They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood. Psalm 106:37–38 (ESV)

I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 1 Corinthians 10:20 (ESV)

## 3. Our hearts are prone to wander.

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV)

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.” And the people did not answer him a word. 1 Kings 18:21 (ESV)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. Matthew 22:36–38 (ESV)

## 3. How do we keep our hearts fixed on Jesus?

### 1. Remember God is our lover, not our kidnapper.

### 2. Keep our relationship with Jesus fresh.

## 4. What is God’s competition today?

### 1. False Religions

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 (ESV)

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

## 2. Pluralism

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. Isaiah 43:11 (ESV)

## 3. Syncretism

Pope Francis to a gay man, “God made you like this and loves you like this.”

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things... For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. Romans 1:22-23, 26–28 (ESV)

## 5. How can I identify false gods in my life?

### 1. What I long for can reveal a false god.

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV)

### 2. What I turn to in times of stress can reveal a false god.

### 3. The way I handle food can reveal a false god.

...their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame,... Philippians 3:19 (ESV)

### 4. The way I spend my free time can reveal a false god.

### 5. Conditions I put on God can reveal a false god.