

“Reversing Idolatrous Consequences”

2 Chronicles 33:1-16

Introduction

Manasseh, son of King Hezekiah, was raised in a godly home, but wandered from God and his background. He rejected his spiritual heritage and became an idolatrous king. Manasseh wanted to follow the example of other nations because he felt their success was tied to their worship of other gods. He publicly practiced idolatry by taking the gods of foreign nations and making them his gods. In doing so, Manasseh provoked God’s anger due to the evil he had done (v.6). Manasseh committed idolatry because he wanted to be free to do what he wanted to do without having to be accountable to the one true God.

Idolatry leads to debauchery – wickedness, depravity, and corruption. In Manasseh’s case, he went so far as to make “his sons pass through the fire [as an offering to his gods]” (v. 6 AMP). Idolatry is a rejection of the true God; wherein mankind, the created, is choosing something in creation to worship while simultaneously leaving out the Creator. This sin leads to the worst kind of godless living, in that it breaks our relationship with Him, and makes us ineffective for Him. In light of his idolatry, God disciplined Manasseh; while he suffered individually for his idolatrous choice, his choice also affected the plight of an entire nation. The good news is that the distress Manasseh suffered from his choices, led him to repent and cry out to God. He “humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.” (vs. 12) God not only forgave him, but also restored him back to his kingdom. There is also good news for those who repent of their idolatrous behavior and choices today. No matter how low you have sunk, if there is an opportunity to repent, take that opportunity. God still forgives, and He can restore you just as He did Manasseh.

Manasseh went pretty low in terms of his sin against God, but God was still willing to forgive and restore him. You can’t go so low that God can’t find you. No matter how far you’ve wandered from God, He can reverse your consequences and turn things around completely. He desires to bring you back to Himself, and give you some or all of what you’ve lost. God’s willingness to reverse idolatrous consequences demonstrates the grace and mercy of God. No matter how bad you feel about how low you’ve gone, God can meet you in that dark place. Remember, there is always hope. God is able to forgive, and He is willing to reverse the consequences of the sin of idolatry.

Getting Started

1. Describe the term idolatry in your own words.
2. While idolatry can mean worship of other gods, idolatry is worshipping anything that takes the place of the one true God. What forms of idolatry do you see today?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Have you ever struggled with the sin of idolatry? Why do you think you elevated something besides God to a place of worship?
2. Manasseh worshiped idols, because he was after the success of other nations. Has watching the success of those who do not follow God ever shaken your faith?

Take the Next Step

1. If you recognize the sin of idolatry in your life, what do you need to do, to put God back in first place – His rightful position?
2. After hearing today’s sermon, can you identify any consequences in your life from the sin of idolatry? If so, did this sermon give you hope for the future? Speak life into your circumstances and share your hopes for God’s reversal of the consequences that you face.
3. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: Psalm 103:10; Isaiah 1:18-20; Psalm 32: 1-7; 2 Chronicles 29:1-5, 30; Isaiah 59:1-2.

Renew Your Mind

*“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”
Psalm 103:10*

