

When A Blessing Becomes A Curse

Sermon Title: **When A Blessing Becomes A Curse**

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Nathaniel Bronner: I am going to take you through some things and let me just even -- even the physical representation. Do you know where most of Jesus' major sermons were? They were over the hill. They were over the hill. They were on the mountains. All of His big sermons were on the mountains.

How many of you all have ever gone mountain climbing before, raise your hands if you have ever gone mountain climbing? We have got about four, five people in here that have gone mountain climbing.

Do you know what it's like to go mountain climbing? Mountain climbing is rough. I mean climbing up cracks and smothering around locusts. Mountain climbing is rough and Jesus held most of his major sermons in the mountains. And the folk had to -- if you have seen pictures of those mountains over in the Holy Land, those were some big mountains.

And, you know, I asked myself, I said Jesus, why would He go up in the mountain to hold a sermon? I am starting to see that most knowledge of the (00:01:03) is on the top of the mountain you ever needed.

I mean these days, people, there are little rain stops them from coming. What would it be like if you had to go up on a mountain to get the Word of God? And why did Jesus had to hold it on a mountain, it was symbolic of the knowledge and of the enlightenment of the words; you can't get it in the valley. To get the word, you are going to have to go up on a mountain, and going up on a mountain is never an easy climb. It's never an easy climb.

And that's why He held His sermons up there. It was symbolic, and most of the people were unwilling to make the climb. Only a few of the select and the elect and those which chose, I will get the Word of God.

See, one of the things about climbing a mountain, you can't climb it with all your stuff. When you go mountain climbing, you can't climb it with all your stuff. You have got to let off, you have got to let some level down, because you just can't climb up of a mountain with a whole lot of stuff, you have to leave most of it.

And when you go up to Jesus, you are going to have to leave a whole lot of stuff. See, you can carry a lot of stuff in the valley, but you can't take it up on the mountain.

Moses, when he went up to get the Commandments and to see the face of God, where did Moses go? Moses went up on the mountain, and he left the people in the valley. And when he got back off the mountain the folk in the valley had gone haywire.

To get the Word of God, you must go upon the mountain, but the mountain is often a rough climb. And as I began to understand even some of the things and some of the ways that God was taking me through some things, so that I would even be able to tell some people how to get out of the valley and get up on the mountain.

Open your Bibles to the Book of Ezekiel. And again, this is a -- as I mentioned, this is a verse that I wasn't really happy about preaching on, but yet and still it is a verse that is for someone.

Ezekiel the 14th Chapter, and oftentimes God will send word for whatever reason, and every time He has sent that word, always it has been someone that has come. It can be sometimes the strangest thing to me, and they will come and they will say, "Lord have mercy," that thing is hitting me square in the middle. It was exactly what I was going through. So, God knows.

That's why Jesus said, He said, "God knows what you need for (00:03:54)". He knows what your situation is. You don't have to tell God about all your problems. You don't think He knows about them? He knows exactly what your situation is and often He will send the word to address your situation.

And I will begin reading Ezekiel, the 14th Chapter, beginning at the first verse; I will be reading from the NIV version, so you can follow along with me in your King James Version. Ezekiel 14:1-11.

"Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? Therefore, speak to them and tell them, 'This is what the

Sovereign Lord says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the Lord will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry. I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.”

00:05:15

Therefore, say to the house of Israel, “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!

When any Israelite or any alien living in Israel separates himself from me and sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet to inquire of me, I the Lord will answer him myself. I will set my face against that man and make him an example and a byword. I will cut him off from my people. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

And if the prophet is enticed to utter a prophecy, I the Lord have enticed that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and destroy him from among my people Israel. They will bear their guilt - the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him. Then the people of Israel will no longer stray from me, nor will they defile themselves anymore with all their sins. They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign Lord.”

And God told me to speak from Ezekiel 14:10, which in the NIV simply reads, “They will bear their guilt - the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him.”

And I want to speak tonight on the subject of When A Blessing Becomes A Curse, When A Blessing Becomes A Curse. And this verse was a deep verse. “They will bear their guilt - the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him.”

The King James says, “And they shall bear their iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired.”

And that's deep, because some of you even here tonight were acting the role of prophet. And prophet does not simply just means one who sees the future. Here, it represents the role of the man of God and the people were coming to the man of God, to receive a blessing, to receive a word, and to receive perhaps most of all a stamp of approval.

And God was saying that if the prophet gave him that, he would suffer the same penalty, the same punishment as the guilty folks. And you see, there are times when God will even separate you from people and will not allow you to even help them and even bring the word to them, because He knows it will do no good.

I had an instance not too long ago, and I told this in one of the messages, of where a place that I will regularly go to eat and there is this homeless fellow. And the first time I saw him and he came up to me and he asked me could I spare a dollar and just help him and he needed somewhere to stay and I was moved to compassion. I reached in my wallet, I handed him a \$20 bill. The man's face just lit up, he smiled, he was happy.

I saw him again a week later and again he walked up to me and he had his long story; he even poured out a doctor's report of where he had just gotten out of the hospital and he had a long will. Again, I reached in my wallet again, I gave him another \$20.

I saw him a third time; he had a different story, I gave him another \$20. And I was just trying to help the man. And the fourth time I saw him, it was at night, and when he saw me walking, a big smile just ran across his face and he started running towards me, and he was reaching in his pocket, pulling out his stuff, he was showing me the condition that he was in.

00:10:03

And God immediately spoke to me and He said no, one word, but just shouted throughout my entire spirit, He said no. And I said, whoa, whoa. And as I stood and as the man was just coming, the Lord just said no. And I looked at him and I said, "Look, I don't know how to even explain this to you, but I can't help you."

And he said, I know you may not be able to give me much, he said, but can you just, you know, like give me 5? I said, "Look, I can't help you." He said, "Well, can you just give me a dollar, just a dollar, just to catch the bus?" I said, "Look, man, I don't know how to explain this to you, but I am going to just tell you like it is, God is just telling me in my spirit the word no, and I don't know why, but I can't help you.

And I went on where I had to go and when I came back the man was still there. And he followed me to my car and he said, "Look, I got a bucket. Let me just wash your car; you don't have to give me, let me just wash your car for a few dollars." I said no, and I got on in my car, and my window was down and he was just pleading with me, and I said, "Look, God told me no.

And as I got on the expressway, there was a strange horrible stench that was filling my car, and God had once before, when I was jogging in the wee hours of the morning, He had opened up my nostrils and allowed me to smell the smell of the demonic. And it was a strange thing, because as I was jogging, and I went about five miles that morning, and as I would walk and jog past certain houses, immediately where the property line started, the minute I crossed that property line, a horrible stench would hit. And the minute I left that property line, it would clear up. And every now and then I would go by houses and the stench would hit and it would clear up.

And I said, "Lord, what in the world is this?" And He said I am allowing you to smell the smell of the demonic. You know, demons have a stench. It's like when angels came, there was a smell, that they are sweet, angelic and sweet. What do you think about the demonic?

And many people may think it was strange, but yet I was smelling the smell of the demonic. And when I pulled off the smell that was in my car, I knew it wasn't a natural odor. And I said to myself thank God I didn't give that man anything. Thank God I didn't even touch him, because see, there are some times and there are some places when you read your Bible, God told the people don't even touch a thing at any place. As a matter of fact, He told them to burn it all up, destroy it by fire. He said it's cursed, don't even touch it.

And when I asked God, I said, “Lord, why wouldn’t you let me help the man?” And God said because I had given that man a way out several times and he refused to take it each time and now no more.

See, there comes a point when God will simply say no more. There comes a point when He will turn over to what (00:13:17) mind and God will simply say no more, because He knows the people. That’s why He had to destroy. He looked into the hearts of men and when He saw they couldn’t be saved, there was nothing left for discussion. So, there comes a point when the people will not listen, the God has to destroy.

And even if you read on verse, even in Ezekiel Chapter 14, God even deals with what happens when you go on further down, starting in Verse 12, “The word of the Lord came again to me, saying: “Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it. Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord.”

God was saying even if you had Noah, Daniel, and Job, even they could only save themselves. God says the people were so unrepentant and their unrighteousness in that land, even if I sent my greatest prophets to them, they could only save themselves. And then that was a situation that I was in with this fellow. God had sent me to help the man, but even if He sent his greatest prophets, they could only deliver themselves.

00:14:59

And then God goes on to tell you what He did to the folks. And it was kind of (00:15:03). But He went on, He said, “Even if these men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness, says the Lord God.” “If I cause wild beasts to pass through the land, and they empty it, and make it so desolate that no man may pass through it because of the beasts, even though these three men were in it, as I live,” says the Lord God, “they would deliver neither sons nor daughters.”

Now, that's heavy. That's even -- they couldn't even deliver their own children. And that's rough. But sometimes even in life there comes a point when even you have done as much as you can do for your own good, there comes a point you have to let them go. There comes a point God says, "Even these men, they would not be able to even deliver their own sons and their own daughters."

And He goes on to say fundamentally that He sent four great plagues upon that land. He sent the sword. He sent pestilence. He sent famine and he sent wild beast. Now, see, that was Old Testament. But when you read New Testament, over in Revelation, there are the same four horses. And do you know those -- you don't have to wait till Revelation, till the end of the world for those four horses to come. You know what those four horses were? He said He sent the sword, which was war, violence, murder. You know what that it is? (00:16:57)

He said He sent famine. Famine is nothing but the shortage of economic resources, be it food, money, sustenance, whatever. Do you know what that still is? Famine has never left and right now famine runs abroad, even in the United States in one form or another. He sent pestilence, that's nothing but sickness. And you know what that still is, and the wild beast. Now, that's a whole different Revelation, that's a whole sermon of what the wild beasts are, but they are still here. That will be another sermon.

But God told Ezekiel, even the righteous prophets would not even be able to deliver their own sons and daughters. And what I am here to tell you tonight, we don't want to be in that situation, but while there are people in that situation of the unrighteousness. The Bible tells you, right up, in the beginning of that 14th Chapter. "Then the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces."

And you see, this is different from the idols that exist in a physical form. God said these men have set up idols in their hearts, and we still have a lot of idols in our hearts today. See, when we think of idol worship, we think of having to make a statue. No, that's not modern idol worship. That's not what God is talking about, because see, you can't even put a stone of statue in your heart.

He says these men have set up idols in their heart. What that means, in their heart -- now, of course, you know, your heart doesn't do any thinking at all. The heart doesn't think; the heart simply represents a person's emotion. You know, when somebody tells you, "Baby, you have got my heart," you don't want that pumping thing. That's not what they are talking about. What they are talking about, you have my emotion, there is no one other than you.

And God says, these men have set up idols in the heart, but understand this, these men were still in the church, they were still going to the prophets. These were God folks. They were still in the church else they would not have been gone to the prophets. You see, folks that's out in the world, they are not going to come to the prophets. Some of them, they don't even believe in that kind of stuff, because these were not people that were out so-called in the world.

00:20:09

These were folks that were in the synagogue. These were the folks who were proclaiming the name of great God Jehovah. That's why they went to the prophets, and they went to God's prophet and they knew who He was. We think sometimes when we see this, even some other folks (00:20:30), they were God folks, these were the folks in the church, in the church.

And I never will forget, about 10 or 15 years ago one of the police chief spoke, and it had to do with the rate of crime in Atlanta, and he said, "We could cut the crime rate in Atlanta 75% if we could just get church folk not to buy hot stuff. He said if we could just get church folk not to buy hot stuff.

So much of the stuff is in the church and these were God's folks that had set up idols in their heart. And it is so easy to set up an idol in your heart. As a matter of fact, it is easier to set up an idol in your heart than it is not to. Do you realize that? It's far easier to set up an idol in your heart than it is not to? It's far easier to have an idol of the things of this world than it is to have God, where He is the only one that has your heart.

As a matter of fact, that's kind of difficult. First of all, because it is an abstract, unseen phenomenon. You know, generally the

things right now that are idol in our hearts are material things; houses, cars, clothes, jewelry, positions, prestige, a man, a woman, even children. You know, all those things, you see them there. You can feel them. You can ride them and smell them and hear, all of those things are manifested in the physical.

But God, you can't see Him. You can't physically touch Him. You can see Him if He opens up your eyes, but there's very few people get to that level, and even when they get to that level, it (00:22:58) blue moon.

Though you can see your car once every 10 years, it would be hard to put much of the idol in it then. But you see -- and even those that have seen divine manifestation, even when you get to the ones that are 80 years old, they have only seen divine manifestations three or four times; they see them every 15, 20 years.

It's hard to achieve something that has your heart and is not physically manifested. And that's why the children of Israel -- And understand, these were the chosen folks, these are not ordinary people, these are the best of the bunch. These are the best of the best. These were the chosen folks, and the chosen folk couldn't keep idols out of their heart.

And we are the chosen people. We are the chosen generation. And we have some of the same problems. And now we have idols that are in our heart. And what are some of the things that constitute even your ability to even recognize when you got an idol in your heart?

The first thing about an idol is that you bow down to it. And you say well, I don't -- I don't bow down to any of that stuff. But do you know one of the things that even gets us wrapped up sometimes in trying to get stuff a beautiful heart? That's why they call it, when you work so hard, the back becomes bent, and though you don't physically do it. In our conscious spirit, because you are struggling so hard for all this stuff, your back is bent from all that labor. Even though your back may be straight, but psychologically you bent over from the weight of all of the stuff and you bow down to it, because it's heavy on you.

And see, when you put all these burdens on and when you look at what constitutes an idol, you bow down to it, number one.

Number two, you make sacrifices to it. You make sacrifices. And when you look at the things and the idols that are in our heart, no matter what they are, and everybody may have some different things, but when you start having to make a lot of necessary and serious sacrifices for the sake of your idol, you start to worship that thing.

A man asked me not too long ago, he asked me for a job, and I asked him, I said, "I thought you had a job." As a matter of fact, I was talking to him in his place of business and he was working. I said, "You got a job." He said, "Yeah, I need a second job." I said for what? He said, "Because I just bought a new car and I have to take a second job to pay for it."

Now, he has to make a sacrifice, and oftentimes we will take on so many jobs, there is no time left for family, no time left for your wife, no time left for your husband, no time left for your children, and you are making a sacrifice onto an idol. You bow down.

I am not talking about not making certain types of things before you have to. If you want to ever advance, even in the material world, you have to make what's called certain kinds of sacrifices, but not other kind of sacrifices.

That's why my father always had a mantra, God first, family second, and business third. Even to progress in business, you make a sacrifice, but you may make a sacrifice if you don't spend so much time watching television. But there are times when we start making sacrifices and the sacrifices will be at the expense of the things that we have been expressly ordained to do.

We bow down. We start making sacrifices. And the third thing that you do with an idol is you praise his name. You praise his name. And I want you to think about, what do you talk about, what do you praise? And sometimes, even in our business, we have to be careful about what we praise. We are proud of (00:27:48) we're doing good. And sometimes when you look at what your praises are, it starts hitting the foam and it starts getting the characteristics of an idol. And you start praising the idol's holy name. And then when you get with your friend, that's what you talk about. When you get with your family, that's

what you talk about, and you will have made an idol within your heart.

And do you know even an idol, they would bring and they sacrifice their children upon their idol. That was all a part of the hedonistic worship pattern. And you know who is doing that today? There has been a whole epidemic, it was on the news all the time about (00:28:52), and the fact that the parents are out of the house so much, we brought our children and laid them upon the idol of corporate America, and the blood of our children runs down the aisles that we just scarified.

See, when you understand the spirit of correlation, you can then look in the world and see the things. Now we have built stone and gold and silver and all that, but in the spirit, we are doing the exact same thing. And the last thing that you will do with an idol is you will stare and look with great admiration upon the face of the idol.

Have you ever had something -- and I am not saying that there is anything wrong with admiring what you have got; the problem becomes when it becomes an idol. And, you know, even sometimes with my little jeep, when I just get it washed and shined and clean, I will just stand back and look at that and say, It's good as (00:30:06)

00:30:07

You know what I mean? And sometimes even when you get all duded up and get your clothes just right, and you get your hair fixed and you get it laying down just right and waved just right and it curves just right, you dress just right, you have been at the gym working out and you have got the shave just right, your shoes are just right. And when you walk in front of that mirror, do you know when you are just right, you can't walk past the mirror fast? Then you check yourself all ready before you leave the house, so you know what you look like.

The wind hadn't blown, so you know it hasn't blown anything out of whack. That's not the point; it's just something about it that when you know you are looking good. There is something about it, you cannot rush very fast past the mirror. Because there is something about it, when you know you are looking good, you have to stop and just see how good you are looking.

And you can start with the minute of stuff to see how good you are looking.

Things can become an idol within our hearts. And God is trying to tell us, He had so many problems with His people. That's what happened to the children of Israel when God told them to go to the Egyptians and tell the Egyptians to give them their gold and silver, and God put it upon the Egyptian's heart to show them favor. And the Egyptians gave them, gave them the gold and silver. So the gold and silver that they had came from God. God wanted His children to have it. He didn't want them broke. He didn't want them poor. He wanted them with the gold and the silver.

But He told them, do not make up thee any graven image of that gold and silver, the people (00:32:04). And the minute that the leader went up on the mountain to talk with God, the minute the leader went up on the mountain, the folks went right ahead and took all of the gold and silver that God wanted them to have, that God gave them, that God miraculously provided for, took all of it, melted it down, made them an idol and began to worship the gold and the silver, and they forgot about that God gave it to them.

And you see, that's what happens when God gives us gold and silver oftentimes, we will take all of the blessings melted down. And see, when it's melted down, you can no longer recognize its original form. When it's melted down, you can't recognize the force. It changes the look of it, and that's why they had to melt it.

So as long as it was in its original form, then they would have to remember that it was the Lord God that gave us this. He gave us the favor. He is the one that showed the Egyptians and put it upon their heart that we could get this stuff, as long as it was in its original form, but they took it, melted it down, and you could no longer even recognize it.

And see, sometimes God will put us in positions and He will still give us things. And by the time God gives you, you can't even recognize that person was ever a child of God. You can't recognize them anymore.

Do you know that's what happens sometimes when people make it big out in the entertainment world? They can't be recognized. (00:33:43) They aren't the person that they used to be. Now, sometimes there is nothing wrong with advancing, because you don't want to be the same person you were 10 years ago. If you are the same that you were 10 years ago, there is something wrong with you. But that's generally not what they are talking about. They are not talking about an elevation in spirit; they are talking about an elevation in pride.

And God, when He gives us the gold and silver oftentimes, we find a way to make idols out of it. And God was simply telling the prophet that when the people have done wrong with Him, they come to you, and when you condone it -- and you see, oftentimes when they come to you, they may (00:34:31) paying them money and try to bribe the prophet.

That's what happened with Balaam. You know, remember the fellow who the King Wittenham and he tried to get Balaam to persecute (00:34:44), and that's a strange story. That's another sermon all in itself. That's a big stuff, because Balaam was communicating with God and he wasn't one of the children of Israel. But he was communicating clearly with God, and yet, Balaam had no sense to tell the man, anything that God has blessed, no man can curse, and anything God has cursed, no man can bless.

00:35:11

And he knew that that God was all-powerful, and once God had (00:35:15) there was nothing. And see, His Word is that way, and sometimes -- and that's why the verse says, the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults.

And sometimes friends, someone was telling me today, my brother was telling me about a show that aired on television last night and there was a discussion among religious leaders and one man had called in and said that his wife was committing adultery, and he went to the pastor to get some advice from the pastor, and all the pastor told him was well, we are all humans.

Well, the Bible says yes, we are all humans, we are all (00:35:59), but it also says (00:36:02) about that particular thing, and anytime you don't tell the people what's in the word and you

deal with it and try to just keep the people happy so they will keep putting money in. And try to keep the people smiling and feeling good (00:36:19). And when you don't tell them what's in the word, the prophet, God says they will suffer the same punishment as the one who comes to consult him. And that's what God (00:36:35) in light. Some have some idols in their hearts in here, some things that we have placed above and beyond the things of God, and that's not hard to do; as a matter of fact, it's hard not to do it.

Everything in this world is geared to making things an idol, because that's what marketing is all about. That used to be my major function in Bronner Bros. was marketing. I studied every book I could get my hand on about the deep parts of marketing. I wanted the subliminal stuff, the things -- the psychological motivation. I read every book I could get my hands on about marketing, so I know how marketing works.

The fundamental goal of marketing is to make the product an idol onto you, to make it where you most have this thing, that you and your identity is defined by this thing. And that's why many times when we put on a cloth by a particular manufacturer, it starts to define who we are. What kind of foolishness is that? What difference does it make whether my suit is made by Armani who I am? That's Mr. Armani that's doing well. What has that got to do with me?

I mean I have never cared about having a Calvin Klein on my behind. What difference does it make? What has that got to do with my behind? And, you know, with all things, when you start digging into it, the man was gay, so why would I want to put a gay man's name on my behind? I'm feeling like we have a big strong man walking around with a gay man's name on his behind? What kind of foolishness is that?

So, when you understand I am going to edit this part out of the television, but sometimes when you start recognizing, whoa! People, don't let stuff become an idol onto you.

God does not -- and see, when you look at the Ten Commandments, you know that's right up at the front, right up at the front, because He knew that was one of the biggest problem that His people had was making graven images and putting them -- we no longer have them external now where we

are worshipping some stone statue; they are in our hearts. They are the things of this material world that we place above and beyond the things of God. And worse, we are sitting in church trying to get the things we placed in our heart. Some of us are sitting in church trying to get the idols and (00:39:17). Some folks go to church not for the Word of God, but to see what kind of women there are.

Now, I am telling the truth. You all know I am telling the truth. Some women go to church not for the Word of God, but to see what kind of men are there. And our purpose oftentimes even for coming into the House of God has nothing to do with God; it has to do with idols and it has to do with those things that we have placed in our hearts and set them above God, and we are trying to use God to get to the things, and we have got it all out of order.

00:39:57

And when that happens, people (00:39:59) idol. And God says that the prophet would be just as guilty as the people. So I don't plan on being guilty, because I am going to tell you in words that God is the most popular and that God is what pays in material. I am going to tell you in words. And this is for someone tonight to tell you to get rid of the idols. Take them out of your heart.

He wants to -- God, if God -- God wants us to have so much stuff. He wants you to have a mate. If someone could tell you what God gave you in His perfection just to let you know what He wants you to have.

First of all, when you put Adam here, He gave Adam the whole earth and He put him in charge of things. God wants you in charge. He wants you to have dominion over every creature, everything in the earth, He wants you to be in charge.

He gave them plenty land. He gave them perfect health. In His state of perfection, He never got sick, and not only did He never get sick, if He had enough sin(ph), He would have never died. So that's the (00:41:29) like this. I mean living to a 100 is pretty good, but that eternity is (00:41:35), and especially living it in perfect health. Then, Adam didn't even ask and God gave him a mate. That's a principle.

Some of us were so hung up and (00:41:46) and we are so hung up on that and we are just focusing on the thing constantly. Adam didn't even ask and God looked at him and sent him a naked woman. Now that's deep.

So, God wants us to have all the fruits, except the stuff He told us not to touch. He wants us to have it, but He does not -- God never intended for Adam to worship the fruit. And see, if we are putting the God, and that's what's happening to us right now, we would forget about God and start focusing on the fruit. And we start focusing on the women and we will start focusing on oh, how beautiful this place is, oh, look at this fine car; we will start focusing on everything and soon forget about the source.

God wants us to get the idols, whatever they are, and you will be surprised, and -- and my grandmother is from a small town (00:43:08), it's kind of emblematic of small town, and my grandmother knows this, some folks can get knocked up over a hat. I mean you get somebody, you know, with a sharp hat with the food in it. I mean some folks can get knocked up over a hat. And when they walk in church, it's not about God, it's about my new hat.

As simple as that, yet whenever that happens, we have elevated the hat above God and we have an idol in our heart, and it's no longer to seek the word, but to show the hat.

And God is just trying to tell us, get the idols out. He has been dealing with these issues from the time that people set foot on this earth, and He has had to sin constantly for the same four things to try to get His people back.

And you don't want any part of the sword, you don't want any part of the famine, you don't want any part of the pestilence, and you don't want any part of the wild beast. All God wants us to do is put Him first, put Him first, but you have got to constantly do it, because everything that you see in this world gears you to idol worship, everything.

Everything that you see that man is producing now and pouring into your eyes and into your ears is gearing you to idol worship. Once this, if you get this, you will be satisfied, if you get this, I will make you a new person, if you get this, you don't need God, this is all you need.

00:44:54

Every single man is gearing up for idol worship, because it is not the power of God that rules over this materialistic (00:45:10), and we have to understand (00:45:16) every mechanism to get God's people to worship Him.

And see, that's what the battle is all about, that's what happened in the Garden of Eden, worship God or worship Satan, and Satan will give you some pretty stuff to worry. When he tempted Jesus, he gave Him some pretty nice things and Jesus was hungry and he will keep you when you are hungry.

You can't tempt a man with food when he is full, but you get him when he is hungry. And some of you have been hungry for some things; you have been hungry for attention and for recognition and you think all these things, but it won't come. God is trying to let you know now, put Him on the altar of your heart and all these things will be added on to you, and you need to understand that verse. I could never hold a sermon in itself. But God wants to let you know, get the idols out of your heart. Let God in.

Bow your heads. Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You again tonight for Your Words and we thank You, Dear Father, for the many chances that you give us to repent and go straight, that You come to us and You bring the Word in one form or another, once, twice, three times, four times, five times, You bring it a multitude of times Dear Father and You give us chance after chance after chance.

We thank You for Your grace and we thank You for Your mercy. But we thank You for Your Word to lead us into that which we should do, for if we abide in Your word, You will abide in us and You will raise upon the altar of our heart.

In Thy Son Jesus' name, amen!