



JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

8.25.24

BEYOND SUNDAY

Overcoming Idolatry—Exodus 19:4 - 20:1—Mark Tunney

1. Reflect on the Israelites' impatience while Moses was on Mount Sinai. Have you ever experienced a period in your life where you felt God was distant or unresponsive? How did you handle that situation?
2. In what ways do you think modern believers might create their own "golden calves" or idols? Can you identify any personal examples where something other than God has taken a central place in your life?
3. The sermon compares idolatry to "spiritual rubbernecking." How do you interpret this analogy? In what ways do you find yourself distracted from God by other interests or concerns?
4. Discuss the notion that idolatry is not just about physical objects but involves prioritizing something over God. How might this understanding of idolatry affect your daily decisions and priorities?
5. The sermon highlights the subtlety of idolatry, noting that even the Israelites thought they were worshiping God while actually worshiping an idol. Can you think of ways in which religious practices or beliefs might become a form of idolatry if not properly aligned with God's intentions?

6. How can we discern if we are serving something other than God in our lives? Reflect on the questions from the sermon about money, power, relationships, and desires. Which of these questions resonated most with you, and why?

7. Bob Newhart's comedic advice to "stop it" contrasts with the more nuanced approach needed for overcoming idolatry. What practical steps can you take, inspired by the sermon, to address and overcome any idols in your life?

8. The story of Zacchaeus is used to illustrate how encountering Jesus can shift our deepest passions and priorities. Have you had a similar transformative experience where a deeper relationship with Jesus reoriented your values and behaviors?

9. Discuss the role of Christian community in overcoming idolatry. How can a supportive faith community help you stay focused on God and avoid falling back into old habits or distractions?

10. The sermon concludes with a reminder that even when we struggle with idols, God does not abandon us. How does this assurance affect your view of God's grace and your commitment to seeking Him amidst your struggles with idolatry?