

Little Foxes- Little gods, Big Instability

Psalm 96:2-5 ² Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. ³ Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens.

If we are honest, the reason that we hold back from following God is that our lives are weighed down with little gods.

Little gods, little foxes running all through your life

Jeremiah 11:13 ¹³ For your gods are as many as your cities, O Judah; and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to the shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.

Where did we learn to serve false gods and to put them before the true God?

Deuteronomy 12:29-30 ²⁹ “When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, ³⁰ beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’

The gods OF THE NATIONS. Christians are drinking from the well of a culture that makes its idols and shames us if we do not worship them!

Answer this: What do I sacrifice for? What do I praise/speak highly of? What do I boast of to others? What do I reorder my life to accommodate? What do I afraid to lose? What, if lost, would take my sense of identity with it?

BEHOLD YOUR GOD!!

To fear God means that God Himself becomes first in every way- He becomes our all in all.

Exodus 20:1-4 Then God spoke all these words, saying, ² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.

Proverbs 19:23 ²³ The fear of the Lord *leads* to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

When we have served idols, there is a real impact on how we view God. We may try to serve him, but we fall into error.

2 Chr. 32:19 ¹⁹ They spoke of the God of Jerusalem as of the gods of the peoples of the earth, the work of men’s hands.

Because we served false gods, we believe that God will also be lifeless and unresponsive- but He is the Living God!

Psalm 50:21 ²¹ “These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state *the case* in order before your eyes.

Because we served gods of our own making, we try to make God fit our desires: whatever we feel deeply, really want, or really believe, God must agree with!

My conscience doesn’t bother me, so it must be fine...

Having served false gods, we lost the security of real faith, so we take refuge in men’s approval and serve them.

Proverbs 29:25 ²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

Matthew 14:3-11 ³ For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. ⁴ For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." ⁵ Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. ⁶ But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before *them* and pleased Herod, ⁷ so *much* that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸ Having been prompted by her mother, she *said*, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." ⁹ Although he was grieved, the king commanded *it* to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. ¹⁰ He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹ And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

Who was the real prisoner? Herod could not do what he wanted, but John was free to please God and speak his mind.

Herod could not bear even to be embarrassed in front of his friends, but John was free to be unpopular and even to die for what he believed in.

Herod was a slave to the fear of men. John feared only God; even in the prison, he remained truly free!

1 John 5:21 ²¹ Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

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