



CLASS #1: Is Marriage Your Idol? (Salange Shepard)

Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:15-19

What is an idol? An image or representation of a god used as an object of worship

Things that we idolize:

- 1) Our appearance
- 2) Success
- 3) Work
- 4) Financial Freedom or Generational Wealth
- 5) Parenthood
- 6) Fame or Notoriety
- 7) Materialism
- 8) Dreams or Goals
- 9) Power or Influence

Signs:

Discontentment
Lust of the eyes
Coveting others' marriages
Distraction to your mission
Fantasize about it more than you pray about it

What is the cure?

Deuteronomy 6: 5 *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength”- (NIV)*

1. **To love God with all your heart:** To be in a continuous state of loving him. It means to love him without conditions. Even if you don't give it to me your love is enough for me.
2. **To Love God with all of your soul:** To recognize that you have a God-shaped hole inside of you that only he can fill. Your soul is your subconscious or moral compass that aches because it knows there is more.
3. **To love God with your strength:** To live missionally by serving God with your time, gifts, talents, and abilities.

Tests that You have made marriage an Idol:

1. **Test of time and attention:**
 - a. How much time do I spend planning, daydreaming or talking about it?
2. **Test of Identity:**

Do I need this to affirm me?
3. **Test of attitude:**

Am I ungrateful about life? Do I feel as though God owes it to me?
4. **Test of Letting it go:**

Are you willing to give it up if that isn't God's will for you?