

# Week 67 Sermon Notes Sermon Title: The Room of Imagery

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**Scripture**: Ezekiel 8:12 - Then he said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in his rooms of imagery? For they say, Yahweh doesn't see us; Yahweh has forsaken the land."

- 1. Showing up in <u>church</u> doesn't mean we've shunned <u>idols</u>.
- 2. We're inclined to invite idols back for <u>repeat</u> performances despite <u>repeated</u> disappointment!
- 3. Disappointment with God opens the heart to idolatry.
- 4. We're tempted to <u>accuse</u> God of demanding too much but readily <u>accept</u> the far greater demands of idols.
- 5. Imagination is the ability to form a mental image of something not present to the senses; an ability guided by our *mind* as it receives direction from our *heart*.
- 6. Imagination is a good **gift** and essential to recognizing **reality**.
- 7. Human imagination was corrupted by the fall.
- 8. Corrupted imagination lies behind all sin since sin only occurs when we imagine things will be **better** some way other than **God's** way.
- 9. Our imagination can't be trusted until it's been <u>restored</u> by God's grace and <u>informed</u> by His truth.
- 10. Our spiritual temple contains a private place of imagination no person can enter.
- 11. Our room of imagery is a place of intense spiritual *conflict*.
- 12. The evil imaginations we embrace aren't exceptions to our real life; they are our real life.
- 13. Our <u>real</u> worship is the worship that unfolds in our <u>room</u> of imagery.

# **Growth Group Questions** Sermon Title: The Room of Imagery

### **KICK-OFF**

- 1. Are you a leader or a follower? How do you know?
- 2. When you were a young child, did you have an active imagination? Did you like to pretend to be someone else? Share some examples.

## THE GAME PLAN

- 1. Were there any particular points from today's sermon that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention? If so, why?
- 2. Have you ever received a dream or vision you knew was from God? If so, what do you believe the purpose was?
- 3. Are there things you choose to see and hear that you know Satan uses to manipulate and corrupt your imaginations? If so, are you willing to identify them and eliminate them from your life?

#### **OVERTIME**

- 1. Is there a particular area of your life where you feel susceptible to a corrupted imagination? If so, what is that area and how can we pray for you?
- 2. Can you think of some passages of Scripture that can help us resist our evil imaginations and the "deceiver" that tries to pervert them? (Psalm 101:4; 119:11, 133; Colossians 3:5; James 4:7; Ephesians 4:27; Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Romans 13:14; 2 Timothy 2:22; Galatians 5:16)

#### 91 WEEKS STUDY QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you find it comforting or fearful that God knows your innermost thoughts? Why?
- 2. Our study in the book of Ezekiel is giving us a glimpse into the unseen spiritual realm and how it interacts with our physical world. How conscious are you of the spiritual realm as you live everyday life? What are some benefits of focusing more on spiritual realities?
- 3. What did you discover in your study this week that was especially curious, fascinating, insightful, or challenging?

<b>NEXT WEEK</b> - Week 68 (May 15-21)	Audio commentaries <u>www.mission119.org</u>
Day 1 Ezekiel 20-21	☐ Day 4 Ezekiel 26-28
☐ Day 2 Ezekiel 22-23	☐ Day 5 Ezekiel 29-32
Day 3 Ezekiel 24-25	10 Question Quiz (Optional)

GROW