

Jerusalem, the Unfaithful Bride
Ezekiel 16:15-34

Main Point:

Remember what God has graciously given to you so that you continuously turn away from your unfaithfulness to Him.

1. Like Israel, we take our Husband's gifts and use them for other than Him.

2. To make it worse, we misuse His gifts in this way extensively and repeatedly.

3. This is no small matter because it is spiritual adultery and comes at a great price.

4. Remember what God has graciously given to you so that you continuously turn away from your unfaithfulness to Him.

1 Kings 11:7-8 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. (NKJV)

Christopher Wright "The main accusation of this section ... is that Israel had taken all that Yahweh had given her ... and had used it all in the worship of other gods."

Matthew Henry "In these verses we have an account of the great wickedness of the people of Israel, especially in worshipping idols, notwithstanding the great favours that God had conferred upon them, by which, one would think, they should have been for ever engaged to him."

John Gill "The Jews were ready to receive any idol, and give into any idolatrous worship that offered to them."

Matthew Henry "They were ready to close with every temptation of this kind, though ever so absurd. No foreign idol could be imported, no new god invented, but they were ready to catch at it."

Proverbs 30:15-16 15 The leech has two daughters— Give *and* Give! There are three *things that* are never satisfied, Four never say, "Enough!": 16 The grave, The barren womb, The earth *that* is not satisfied with water— And the fire never says, "Enough!" (NKJV)

Iain Duguid "Judah had a history of looking for love in all the wrong places, seeking security not in the Lord but in the arms of a foreign power."

Iain Duguid "The relationship of the Lord and his people is not a co-equal relationship, in which we "own" whatever he gives us and we are free to choose whether we will serve him or another god.

2 Kings 16:8 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasuries of the king's house, and sent *it* as a present to the king of Assyria. (NKJV)

Proverbs 5:8-11 8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, 9 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel *one*; 10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner; 11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, (NKJV)

Iain Duguid "Remembering in Scripture is never simply a mental exercise but one that issues in a particular course of action, based on the truth remembered."

Billy Graham "The Bible is God's "love letter" to us, telling us not only that He loves us, but showing us what He has done to demonstrate His love."

1 Corinthians 4:7 7 For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*? (NKJV)

Daniel Block "Instead of remembering her desperate beginnings or celebrating the goodness of Yahweh in rescuing her, she trampled underfoot the grace of God."