

These Nations Feared the Lord, and Served Their

by F.B. Meyer

The sermon emphasizes the importance of genuine, heartfelt worship, warning against the dangers of double worship and pretending to serve God.

Scripture: Exodus 20:3, 2 Kings 17:41, Matthew 6:24, James 4:4

Topics: "True Devotion", "Divided Worship"

Description

F.B. Meyer addresses the issue of divided worship, illustrating how the nations that settled in Israel acknowledged the God of Israel while simultaneously serving their own idols. He warns against the superficiality of outward religious practices that do not reflect a true fear and reverence for God, urging listeners to examine their hearts for any hidden allegiances to other 'gods.' Meyer emphasizes that one cannot genuinely serve two masters, as true devotion requires an undivided heart. He challenges the congregation to recognize that any divided loyalty ultimately leads to spiritual blindness and ineffectiveness in worship.

Transcript

These nations feared the Lord, and served their

graven images. 2 Kings xvii. 41.

IT was a curious mixture. These people had come from Babylon, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and were settled in the land from which Israel was deported. In their desire to propitiate the God of the country, they added his worship to that of their own gods (ver. 32), though they did not really fear Him (ver. 34). There was an outward recognition of the God of Israel, which was worse than useless. Are you sure this is not a true description of your own position? You pay an outward deference to God by attending his house, and acknowledging his day, whilst you are really prostrating yourself before other shrines. The one originates in a superstitious fear, a desire to stand well with your fellows; but it is in the direction of the other that your heart really goes. You come as his people come, sit as his people sit, kneel as his people kneel; but your heart is far apart, and you only do as you do that you may follow your own evil ways with less fear of discovery.

With all of us there is too much of this double worship; but let it be clearly understood that it is only apparent, not real. No man ever really serves two masters, or worships two gods. Whatever conflicts with God in heart or life is our chosen god. Whatever appears to share our heart with God really holds our heart. God will never be in competition with another. He must either be all or none.

The soul that endeavours to divide its service between Jehovah on the first day, and its graven images all the other days of the week, might as well discontinue its religious observances, for they count for nothing: except to blind it to its true condition.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/fb-meyer/these-nations-feared-the-lord-and-served-their/>

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