

Habakkuk 2:18-20

V. 18-19

How many times have you been walking on the street and seen some statue of an idol? The other day my family and I were in Target when we came to the section that has all the new stuff for college. One of the new lines of bathroom stuff were different color statues of Buddha. For those of you who know Eden my 2 year old. She is obsessed with the color pink, the other day she even woke up saying “Daddy, I’m a diva!” Heck no! So she twirls in her pink tutu, must drink from her pink princess cup and eat off of her pink Disney princess plate. Well we passed by these Buddhas and I don’t even know what they were for besides maybe decorations but the colors looked like someone took a highlighter at Buddha’s giant belly. There was stark yellow, turquoise blue, bright green and of course hot pink. If you’ve never seen a hot pink Laughing Buddha, you have not lived. So of course Eden starts screaming like there is no tomorrow for this thing and I’m like no, it’s Buddha in the middle of Target!

Idols have almost become a joke in America. On the streets of India you would never mock a Hindu god like this. They respect their gods because they truly believe that praying to statues will help their lives.

In this last woe, God explains how Babylon was famous for their idols. God is mocking those who put their trust in things that can’t even talk, especially as the judgment comes Babylon will cry to their gods to “wake up and save us!” The sarcasm here is seriously intense as God ends verse 19 with “They may be overlaid with gold and silver” showing how people put their money into them to make them look beautiful and rich, “but they are lifeless inside.” He explains how no matter what you do, how much you polish them, spit shine them, cover them with expensive materials, care for them, ask them questions, ask for help, pray to them, they are still dead, quiet, and worthless inside.

We make idols like this today, this verse actually seems very relevant to our lives. You see, we might not make physical faces on stone or wood and bow down and pray to them. But, we create idols whenever we push God away for that class we must study for the night before the test and miss BCM or church, or when we have to just finish that level before I spend time in the Bible, or when we spend money for concerts that we are extremely excited about but won’t tithe, or we will go on a road trip but not have enough money to spend on what God is calling us to, or sleeping in instead of disciplining ourselves to wake up and spend time with God or feeling a tug on our hearts to talk to that person about Christ but don’t because of our personal bubble of awkwardness/comfort. There are many other examples of idols in our lives that we all could mention but what we need to realize is that so many times we neglect the presence of God in our own selfishness.

V. 20

The next verse, 20, is an interesting departure from the rest of the woes. Here God ends His reply with “But the Lord is in His holy Temple.” These three words, “But the Lord” are three of the most important words of chapter 2. As God ends the woes of what is going to happen to Babylon (insert booping sound here) He makes sure Habakkuk knows that regardless of what happens, regardless of what you think will happen, regardless of what you hope happens, “I will be on my throne in the Temple.” This basically says nothing can move me and I am in control and will always be in control. He basically goes against every possible argument for idols by stating that He is alive and active right now and will always be. Idols can’t do anything but sit and look pretty. They don’t have any power, they can’t move nor speak and are not active in our daily lives.

Regardless of how many things are pulling you away from God, things that you are idolizing without even realizing it, things like exercise, extra activities, hanging out, watching tv, being on facebook (or for me, twitter), playing xbox, He is on His throne and wants you to be worshipping Him with all that you do. So are you? Are you falling silent before Him and worshipping Him through your actions, words and relationships? Are you being

silent and listening to what He wants you to know...to live a life that honors Him? What do you need to do in order to get there?

We all need God's presence in order to give up our selfish desires that create idols in our lives. You see, when you seek God's presence out you aren't just saying "God, show up here please" you are basically asking God to fill you with His Spirit...the Holy Spirit, to do things you can't do. In turn, you experience the fullness of Christ and His glory. When this happens you will be overcome with loving God that you and your selfish desires will fade away. You will be living for Christ and only Christ now to where "God will give you the desires of your heart" because they are finally the same as His. He will guide your paths and you will be silent before Him. You will listen and feel His presence. Have you ever been around someone like that? Someone who had the presence of God around them? I was at a youth camp last week helping out and there were certain youth ministers that carried the presence of God with them. I was drawn to them and so were the high schoolers!

Do you know that the Lord is on His throne and active in our lives? What's it going to take for you to realize that? Maybe there is some sin in your life that you can't shake, or don't even realize. Confess that to God and someone else, get it out. Only then can you experience God's presence.

Feel His presence this week – say it aloud and remember it. I want to feel your presence Lord.