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Valley Church
Week 13 – A New Kind of Slavery

Introduction:

Judges 2:6-13

Idolatry: A New Kind of Slavery...

1. Born into _____ prosperity
Much material wealth handed down to the next generation (v. 6)
2. Deceived by _____ spirituality
They forsook their roots in Yahweh to serve the Ba'als (v. 12)
3. Lacking in _____ personally
They did not know the God "who had brought them out of Egypt" (v. 10, 12)

Our Freedom In Christ Expressed:

Q1: How can we express freedom from enslavement to excessive prosperity?

A1: Let's practice radical _____
1 Tim. 6:6-7, 10
2 Cor. 8:7

Q2: How can we express freedom from spiritual deception?

A2: Let's not blend Jesus or His _____
Reminder: Exclusive to Jesus ≠ Exclusion of Others

Q3: How do we express freedom from religious boredom?

A3: Let's live in conscious dependence upon _____

The Big Idea:

In the story of Israel, God shows all of humanity our universal need for Christ. Though idolatry is tempting to the flesh, you are no longer an idolater. You are a new creation by virtue of your new heart fused to Christ who lives in you, through you and for you!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Has God revealed His goodness and grace to you in a new or memorable way over the past week? If so, please share if you are willing to do so...

Ponderings:

2. **Judges 2:20-3:4** talks about the foreign nations that God decided to use to “test” Israel in order to bring about greater surrender and obedience. Verse 23 says “The LORD had allowed those nations to remain” in the land rather than allowing Joshua to drive them out.

What does this verse tell us about the sovereignty of God in bringing His discipline to Israel?

How does God use the “stumbling blocks” in our culture to bring discipline to our lives? What is the difference between loving discipline & wrathful punishment? Why is it important never to confuse the two?

Do you agree that God's discipline is ultimately an act of His grace toward you? Explain why or why not...

3. Why do you think the Israelites were SO stubborn from generation to generation throughout the time of the judges?

4. **Judges 21:25** says “In those days Israel had no king, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Does this sound familiar? In what specific ways do you see this pattern of life in our culture? Give specific examples...

5. Even as the Israelites endured the consequences of their rebellion, God “...had compassion on them as they groaned...” (2:18). Share an example of when God showed you compassion during a time of rebellion or stubbornness in your life...

6. Are you a compassionate person toward those who are stuck in seasons or patterns of rebellion, sin or foolishness? If so, how do you exercise compassion in practical ways without becoming frustrated or judgmental?

7. Of the three ways to express your freedom that were mentioned in the weekend message, which is your strongest and weakest currently? Explain...

Promptings:

8. Is there a person in your life who is frustrating you by their sin, foolishness or rebellion? If so, will you commit to being an agent of compassion toward them? What might that look like in practical terms? How might that compassion be costly to you? Share if you are willing, but be sensitive to confidentiality.