

Trap of Idolatry

Rachael Martin 4,19,2016

Exodus 23:31b-33 - I will hand over to you the people now living in the land, and you will drive them out ahead of you. ³²“Make no treaties with them or their gods. ³³ They must not live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me. If you serve their gods, you will be caught in the trap of idolatry.”

The cares of this world.....

I don't speak often of the loss of our child because, quite frankly, it's still not easy to deal with and I can't imagine having numerous miscarriages as one was "all of me".

I've thought about my unborn child often over the years and I realize that nothing happens by coincidence and that God is sovereign which means He alone has ultimate, total, unlimited, absolute, supreme power over all things.

I remember someone saying to me shortly after our loss that "they don't think God did this."

I've thought a lot about that sentence over the years and like the book of Job, I realize that the enemy of our soul wants to kill us off. If he can't destroy us then he will try to make our lives miserable. It's up to us how we respond to the struggles and temptations that come our way. Praise God for the power of Holy Spirit living inside of us!

A Promise of the LORD's Presence – Exodus 23:24-33 - ²⁴ You must not worship the gods of these nations or serve them in any way or imitate their evil practices. Instead, you must utterly destroy them and smash their sacred pillars. ²⁵ “You must serve only the LORD your God. If you do, I will bless you with food and water, and I will protect you from illness. ²⁶ There will be no miscarriages or infertility in your land, and I will give you long, full lives ²⁷ “I will send my terror ahead of you and create panic among all the people whose lands you invade. I will make all your enemies turn and run. ²⁸ I will send terror ahead of you to drive out the Hivites, Canaanites, and Hittites. ²⁹ But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals would multiply and threaten you. ³⁰ I will drive them out a little at a time until your population has increased enough to take possession of the land. ³¹ And I will fix your boundaries from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the eastern wilderness to the Euphrates River. I will hand over to you the people now living in the land, and you will drive them out ahead of you. ³² “Make no treaties with them or their gods. ³³ They must not live in your land, or they will cause you to sin against me. If you serve their gods, you will be caught in the trap of idolatry.”

As I was reading this I pondered that there very well could have been other things I was "serving" at the time of my miscarriage. A lot of times we tend to blame everything else but ourselves – and for a long time I would play the "it's not fair" card – other women can just have babies and babies and natural births and women my size with no complications and this and that – I ran down the list – but being true to myself is the most important step in moving forward with the Lord – owning my mistakes and not walking in false humility. It's a hard pill to swallow.... But there are things that I could have done, I'm not happy with the way I treated my

body when I was pregnant. I didn't do drugs or drink alcohol – but I didn't do anything to stay healthy and I certainly had the mentality of “I can eat what I want because I'm eating for two!”

Friends – I'm laying part of my life out here to share how sometimes we can be our own hindrance in our relationship with the Lord and until we can admit it – there are boundaries that we can't cross to, to reach the depths of what God has for us. I was not where I am today and I still try with all of my mind to put the Lord 1st in all I do – but it is a constant struggle – ahhhh... the cares of this world!

Cellphones, tablets, Netflix, apps, T.V. shows & sports, Krispy Kreme, Starbucks, music, YouTube, even Christian concerts and conferences – this world is FILLED to the brim with things to take our attention and simply put - anything that we serve more than the Lord Is idolatry.

I'm speaking to myself in this and want to wrap this whole message up with a bow of Gods infinite grace and mercy!! So understand – God loves us deeply and wants us to choose wisely!

Some 8 years after losing our son, I can finally say that it's a very strong percentage of ME at the point of being pregnant with Israel James Martin, that I was pulled in a TON of directions doing a lot of things besides a mother to a 1 ½ year old, and a wife – where my heart was, was not 100% serving God – because the cares of this world and the invites to b-day parties and weddings, and conferences and family reunions and dinner dates and play dates and the list goes on..... being busy can keep you at a distance from the Lord that can have you wondering if not careful, who you are really serving. I'm not saying it's wholly my fault, but I played a part.

Jesus said so many things pertaining to the people of His day when they were busy doing “life”. I'm certain He understands more than we know. I will end with a photo of me, Gary, and Linda when I was pregnant with Israel (and didn't know it yet) and a prayer that we will ON PURPOSE take time every day to be with the Lord and get out our pie charts and label where we spend our time, money, and attention and pray for the Lord to show us what needs to change because make no mistake – He is coming back sooner than we think for those of us who are looking for Him.

Remember Gina's post from yesterday – we are overcomers!!

Lord, help us to get our eyes off of the things that don't matter! Help us to resist temptation today. Help us Lord to move forward from those things that would try to hinder us and move into Your grace and mercy and will. Help us to cast away the things of this world that don't have any significance or eternal value. Help us to not fall into the traps of this world. Help us to guide our children in the right way so that they know the value of Your will and ways and Father – forgive us for putting ourselves first and help us to put others before ourselves. Lord help us to be healthy in mind, body, and spirit and created in us a pure heart that we wouldn't sin against You! Give us Your grace today and thank You for Your constant hand of protection on us and those we love. Lord we want to be ready for You – help us each day to shed off the things of this world and cling to eternal things. In Jesus name – amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Gp-ZsUage>



