

Sermon Discussion Questions for Small Groups and Families:

Revelation 18 ~ "Two Songs"

Discussion Questions

1. Talk about a time when you and another person had a polar opposite reaction to the same event. What was the reason for the contrast?
2. Why do you think John used a Great Prostitute to symbolize idolatry? How is idolatry "spiritual adultery"?
3. An idol is anything you look to for identity, security, joy and fulfillment apart from God. What idols are you attracted to and why?
4. Tim Keller in his book "Counterfeit Gods" suggests four ways to identify your idols:
 - a. Look to your imagination: what you do habitually day dream about? What occupies your mind when you have nothing else to think about?
 - b. Look at how you spend your money. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
 - c. Look at how you respond to unanswered prayer. If you work and pray hard for something and don't get it—are you ever overcome with explosive anger or deep despair?
 - d. Look at your most uncontrollable emotions. Does your anger, fear, despair or guilt point to something that you feel you must have at all costs?

What did you those questions reveal about your heart? What additional idols did those questions help you to identify?

5. Idols can't be destroyed, they can only be replaced. How can God meet your deepest needs—the needs you look to your idols to satisfy? What would it look like to entrust Him with that area of your life? How can God's love and care for you become more of a reality in your life?
6. Which woman—the Great Prostitute, or the Virgin Bride—are you most attracted to and why?
7. Which city—the City of Babylon, or the New Jerusalem—captures your heart? Which one are you more invested in? What would an audit of your checkbook or day timer suggest? Are you investing in landfills or the Kingdom which will never rot, spoil or fade?
8. If God took away everything that distracted you from Him—including but not limited to your wealth, status, position, etc.—so that you could see Him more clearly—would that make you happy or sad? Why?
9. As the Christmas Season approaches—what guidance might Revelation 18 give to you as you celebrate Jesus' birth? Is there anything you sense God calling you to do differently this year as opposed to past years?
10. What else from the sermon challenged you or made you think? What unanswered questions remain, and what are you still confused about?

For further reading

- *From the Bible:* Matthew 6:19-24, Philippians 3:17-21, Colossians 3:1-5
- *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex and Power and the Only Hope that Matters* (Tim Keller)
- *The Treasure Principle* (Randy Alcorn)