

SMASHING OUR *American Idols*

4. “Can’t Get No Satisfaction”

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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Sermon Notes

**Our American Idols are PEOPLE, POSITIONS, POSSESSIONS, OR PLEASURES THAT WE PURSUE IN PLACE OF GOD
And ALL IDOLS MUST BE SMASHED**

So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 NLT

The Idol of Success DECEIVES US BY PROMISING SATISFACTION THROUGH PERFORMANCE, ATTAINMENT, AND ACHIEVEMENT

I. 2 Kings 5:1-7

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded...² Now bands of raiders...had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. ³ She said to her mistress, “If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” ⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ “By all means, go,” the king of Aram replied. “I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing...

Success GIVES THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY AND CONTROL

The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands. ¹⁶ They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. ¹⁷ They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. Psalm 135:15-18

II. 2 Kings 5:8-13

⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: “Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.” ¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy....

Success BLINDS US WITH OVERCONFIDENCE MAKING US UNTEACHABLE

Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.” ¹ Corinthians 3:18-20

III. 2 Kings 5:14-19a

¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. ¹⁵ Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant.” ¹⁶ The prophet answered, “As surely as the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will not accept a thing.” And even though Naaman urged him, he refused. ¹⁷ “If you will not,” said Naaman, “please let me, your servant, be given as much earth as a pair of mules can carry, for your servant will never again make burnt offerings and sacrifices to any other god but the Lord. ¹⁸ But may the Lord forgive your servant for this one thing: When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down and he is leaning on my arm and I have to bow there also—when I bow down in the temple of Rimmon, may the Lord forgive your servant for this.” ^{19a} “Go in peace,” Elisha said.

Success THAT MATTERS COMES FROM GOD AND IS NOT ACHIEVED BUT RECEIVED

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. Psalm 23:1-2