

Isaiah- Lesson 8

David Cheong

What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?

The purpose of idolatry and therefore God's heart behind prophecy was one new thing I learned this week. Idolatry and prophecy of God's divine judgment and blessings are often talked and thought about in the Christian faith, but learning the purpose behind these two important aspects of our faith was really good to dive deeper into. With idolatry, Oswalt shares, "The pagans personalized all these, but they were seeking in the gods what we seek in these. These are the things that give us our sense of identity and meaning in life" (524). It is easy to judge the Israelites and say they are so stupid for making man-made idols out of God's creation. But, the reason why the Israelites made these idols was so that they can find a sense of identity and meaning in life. This really convicted me that idols can come in many shapes and form, and I must only turn to God for my sense of identity and purpose in life. I should not turn to position, appearances, pleasure, materialistic pursuits, hobbies, wealth, fame, and all these things that can be used for good by itself to ultimately give me life. Only God can give me life.

It was also refreshing to learn the heart behind prophecy. Oswalt writes, "Furthermore, as I tried to indicate above, simple knowledge of the future is not the purpose of prediction in the Bible" (473). Prophets did not share God's revelation for simple knowledge of the future. And Dr. Constable further explains the nature of prophecy by highlighting, "God's people needed to observe that sin had led them into their present wretched condition, and that whenever their

ancestors had gotten into such a condition, repentance brought restoration to usefulness. Their relationship to God was the key” (280). It has always been about a genuine relationship with God behind the purpose of biblical prophecies. It was to bring God’s people into a right and real relationship with Him more than a knowledge of the future. These realizations made me see how I need to turn to God Himself through all the spiritual means in my life, and it is this real and personal relationship He desires with me and everyone. I can turn to Him, surrender my complete life to Him, and offer my life to be used for His glory for these reasons.