

Psalms 115.⁴⁻⁸

- ⁴Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of men's hands.
⁵They have mouths, but they speak not:
eyes have they, but they see not:
⁶They have ears, but they hear not:
noses have they, but they smell not:
⁷They have hands, but they handle not:
feet have they, but they walk not:
neither speak they through their throat.
⁸They that make them are like unto them;
so is every one that trusteth in them.

As we have previously discussed, Lent is a time for self-denial and the mortification of the flesh. Our 16th reading for Lent 2025 relates to this aspect of Lent.

1. In today's reading, the Psalmist addresses the senselessness and impotence of idols.
? When you read about idols, what do you see in your mind's eye?

If you think only of a physical object of wood, stone, metal, etc., shift your thinking to their purpose and the human psychology that is behind them.

- ? What is the purpose of an idol?
- ? What human psychological needs are idols supposed to address, meet, and improve?
- ? Idols are made and worship because they are thought to bring some benefit—often material and financial—to the worshipper. How does this understanding of idols shape the way you think of them and the answers to the previous questions?

In Colossians 3.5, Paul defines idolatry as “covetousness.

- ? What do you think and feel when you ponder the parallelism between idolatry and covetousness?
- ? How does the parallelism between idolatry and covetous further shape your understanding of what idols and the worshipping of them entails?
- ? An idol can be a thing, a person, or a place. What sorts of people, places, and things might be thought of as idols in today's world?
- ? What turns a common person, place or thing into an idol?
- ? Why is it so spiritually dangerous to place one's trust for happiness and security in people, places, or things rather in God Himself?
- ? What do you feel when you read the Psalmist's somewhat scornful description of the idol's senselessness and impotence?
- ? Why do idols deserve our scorn?

2. In the final verse, the Psalmist shifts his observations about idolatry from the idol to the individual who imbues the idol with false powers.
 - ? How do you feel about the Psalmist concluding that individuals who worship idols are no better or any more potent than the worthless idol itself?
 - ? How does an idol make us “senseless” and “impotent”?
 - ? What can you do to expel all idols from your life?

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