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The LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites: 'Any Israelite or any alien living in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech must be put to death. The people of the community are to stone him. I will set my face against that man and I will cut him off from his people; for by giving his children to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name. If the people of the community close their eyes when that man gives one of his children to Molech and they fail to put him to death, I will set my face against that man and his family and will cut off from their people both him and all who follow him in prostituting themselves to Molech'.

Lev. 20:1-5

Molech of old, was a large bronze idol in the form of a man but with a head of an ox. He stood with his hands outstretched as to receive. Underneath his hands were burning coals in which the sacrifice fell and was consumed with fire. There were seven chapels in which to sacrifice to Molech. Some of the sacrifices to be sure, looked like the true sacrifices made to the Lord. The first was an offering of flour. The second was an offering of tur-

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Modern Day Molech

tle doves. The third was a lamb. Fourth was a goat. Fifth was a young bull, sixth was a grown bull and the seventh a child. Anybody sacrificing to Molech believed that things would get better, and the greater the sacrifice the better things would get. People would place their child on the all receiving arms of the idol. All the while drums would be beating wildly to drown out the cry of their little ones lest they hear and repent of what they were doing. Essentially the drum beats distracted the fathers from hearing the need and cries of their children as they burned.

God said he would set himself against the father who would give his son to an idol for the belief that things would get better. Yet before you are quick to say, "I would never do such an inhumane thing", or, "those sacrifices don't happen anymore," I would beg to differ. So let's have an open mind and examine our hearts to see if some, if not many of us in the church today are guilty of sacrificing to a modern day Molech.

A young man was in a desperate state when he came to see me. He had come to one of our services and after it was over he came

up to me and said he was in need of help. He was addicted to drugs and needing to be free. After we had taken him through some steps and helped him out, he related to me how when he was just a young boy his family moved to Los Angeles California. At age eleven he was introduced to drugs. When he couldn't get ahead there he came back to Mexico alone, but it was too late. When I talked to his parents on the phone, they said with tears and a quiver in their voice, to please do all I could to help out their son. Having grown up in a Christian family they were sad to see their son in such a predicament. As I talked to the parents I said to myself, why wouldn't they come back and help their son? Is living in the States worth the cost of their son? Why didn't they see the writing on the wall and stop it when it was in their power? Yet they did not see that they had sacrificed their son to a modern day Molech. Well, Molech requires a sacrifice, and they had made it. Anybody that sacrificed to Molech in Bible times was led to believe that things would get better, especially when sacrificing their son; like so many that we see that go to the States hoping that things will get

better. But they don't. Some of the most rebellious Christian kids I have seen here have fathers in the States, while they are here alone with just mom. Although they might say we are making this sacrifice so things will get better, "I'm working hard so that one day I won't have to", or "I don't want my kids to suffer they way I had to," that attitude is usually at the cost of their sons and daughters. Many parents believe their biggest responsibility is to put food on the table and a roof over their head and it stops there, while in the Bible we see God saying over and over not to worry about putting food on the table, but rather to teach the fear of the Lord to our children, and He would take care of the provision.

Molech is alive and well, and crying out for our children to be sacrificed once again, to be burned in the fire; and there are all too many parents willing to make the sacrifice. Many times these days parents are accused of being bad parents if we don't buy all the newest gadgets, games and computer toys that come out, only to once again sacrifice our kids to modern day Molech. For we sacrifice to give them ipods, computers, x-boxes, game-cubes, etc. and they take the place of teaching our kids the important things in life. What video game teaches you to not kill somebody? Many times

Molech baby-sits our kids in the form of television or internet and by the time they are grown, killing, blaspheming, cursing, fornication etc. are all the norm to where they don't even flinch when they hear or see such things. But like the Molech of old that made our kids burn in the fire, today as well, they still burn, only with lust from all the pornography made available from all these gadgets. Only in areas of entertainment does the church parallel the world. In healing sick people the world heals more than we do and are way ahead of us. Yet we are the ones told to do such a thing and have been given the power to do so. In treating people with psychological problems they are ahead of us there as well. We say things like, "The world should know that we can have just as much fun as they have". Yet if we could heal them they would come, if we could deliver them they would come in droves, but because we can't, we have to resolve to entertain them with subliminal Gospel messages to try to show them that we are real people just like them and can have fun. However, God has called us peculiar, and commands us to go and transform lives through His power that is available to us, but we tend to do just the opposite. The drums of Molech are beating and we can't discern the real need of those around us because we are distracted. Yet their needs are there and sometimes we only have one opportunity to meet them. God's Word to the church today is: **Get the job done right the first time.**

In a recent conversation with our kids about proper dress and attire, like most kids these days, they want to know why they have to dress a certain way, especially when it comes time to leading worship or going to church. While we are all for being comfortable and relaxed, and not come under the bondage of legalism, we also know that many times outward expressions are revealing the heart. Just like many times a person afflicted with sickness is harboring unforgiveness, resentment, or some other type of hurt that has manifested in outward physical symptoms. Many times a rebellious appearance also reveals a relaxed or rebellious spiritual outlook as well.

We have a boy in our church; to his outward dress he has added an ipod. Ipods in and of themselves are not wrong yet you cannot find him without his ipod in his ear. He is always trying to do two things at once, listen to people, and to his ipod, an extremely rude act. Many times when he is interrupted from listening to his ipod he gets mad. He gets mad if you try to say anything about his spiritual life as well. His outward expressions show his inward spiritual climate. I read today in the news how a high school student broke his teacher's neck for taking away his ipod. Another child sacrificed to Molech. The parents probably thought they were being a blessing by making such a sacrifice of providing their child with all the latest gadgets, but it caused him to burn instead. Many times the parents are the ones providing these very things that distract our kids from being able to hear any type of counsel.

This generation cannot discern the still small voice because the drum beat of Molech constantly beats in their ears, distracting them from it ever being heard.

2Sa 12:31 He also brought out the people (Ammon) who were in it, and set *them* under saws, sharp iron instruments, and iron axes, and made them pass through the brickkiln. And thus he did to all the cities of the sons of Ammon. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Here we see King David, when conquering the Ammonites, making them pass through the brick kiln. This verse can be understood to mean that he inflicted the same punishment, that their practices earned them. What they had done, came upon them. They made their kids to pass through the fire and now that became their punishment. The thing they thought was such a blessing became the very thing that brought judgment upon them. This is what the king handed them over to. Thus if we ignore the true cries of our children, if we simply do nothing, then it will come back upon us. God commands us to be diligent to train our children in His ways, not to put a babysitter of television, the internet, or game-cubes in front of them, but to take time to teach them. **Deu 4:9** "Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons". That is a pretty strong exhortation to fathers, to make sure we are diligent to

teach them. However many times we are ignorant of what they are looking at on the internet, games they are playing, or what they are watching on the TV, but that is not being diligent as God has asked us, rather sacrificing our children to Molech, the god of this world. His arms are outstretched to receive them.

Read these verses and see how they pertain to today. **2Kings 6:26-31** As the king of Israel was passing by on the wall a woman cried out to him, saying, "Help, my lord, O king!" He said, "If the LORD does not help you, from where shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the wine press?" And the king said to her, "What is the matter with you?" And she answered, "This woman said to me, 'Give your son that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' "So we boiled my son and ate him; and I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him'; but she has hidden her son." When the king heard the words of the woman, he tore his clothes--now he was passing by on the wall--and the people looked, and behold, he had sackcloth beneath on his body. Then he said, "May God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today."

Here we see the king of Israel being asked to help someone in Israel. This woman knew who to go to for help. However this king was not acting as the king he rightfully was. He did the ole traditional disclaimer saying, "You need to look to God not to me, I'll only let you down if you look to me, but God will never let you down". But in every chronicle of the kings of Israel and Judah the spiri-

tual climate always depended on the king. He set the spiritual tone for the whole kingdom. His country is in famine and he is spiritually blind and ignorant. When he hears the horrible story of the two women how they boiled and ate a child he could not believe his ears, he tore his clothes and went about aghast. The bomb had dropped, and he was totally oblivious as to what was happening in his kingdom until the news was more than he could bear. Listen, this is exactly the climate in many

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homes today. Parents set the spiritual climate in their homes. Yet many times they are totally oblivious to what is going on until their kid is in jail, a drunkard, a drug addict, a homosexual, or has gotten someone pregnant, etc; until the news is too much. They never heard the true cries and needs of their child because they were drowned out while they thought everything was ok. This king wanted to be king without putting forth any effort into reigning, as a convenience to himself. When things didn't go the way he wanted, he ended up blaming the man of God, taking the

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responsibility off himself, where it rightly belonged. But he really paid no attention to the Word of God in the first place. How many parents are just like him, they want their kids, without training them to be like Jesus. We ignore the Word of God and then we can't understand why our kids go astray.

While I will recognize the benefit of some of these things like the internet, etc. these should be held very lightly. Man has devised a way to sin with everything he has created. The simple life is being crowded out. Like Elijah, we think God is in the big storm, the mighty earthquake, or the fire, but it's the still small voice that God is desiring we know and hear. Jesus' ministry was one of POWER, not of information. Paul's was not of eloquence but one of demonstration of God's POWER. We should not be quick to

trade in the power for information that will make us smarter but less powerful with God. Focus on the God of power and the people will get the word out for you. Jesus never looked for multitudes, the multitudes looked for Him. With no sound equipment, no announcements, with no event planning, Jesus had more than most of us have a year of Sundays, because His focus was on God not his sermon, or propaganda to get people to listen to Him.

Like Saul of old who was out looking for his father's donkeys, he was spending his time looking and worrying about them and God was trying to reveal to him a kingdom. The Word of the Lord had to come to him and say, "Forget the donkeys, your father is now concerned about you". He

had to set aside temporal things to grab a hold of the things of God. Interestingly enough, those things that Saul had searched for never left his system. They became part of him, because he died a rebellious, stubborn man, reflecting the character of a donkey. As we say here in Mexico, sometimes we can be "Bien, burro", stubborn as donkeys. As God's desire for Saul was to forget looking for the donkeys and grab a hold of a bigger destiny, a kingdom, so we must stop looking for the insignificant to grab a hold of the destiny that God has for each one of us. Stop looking for the donkeys and start looking for the kingdom God desires to reveal.