

Exodus and the Golden Calf!

June 12, 2021

Golden Oldies, Pt. 2

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Four Warnings From the Golden Calf:

1) We Are Prone to THE SIN CYCLE:

a. We FORGET OUR GOD

Exodus 31:18-32:1, *When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant law, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God. 1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."*

b. We Attempt to FIX OUR PROBLEMS

Exodus 32:2, *Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."*

c. We Make EXCUSES FOR OUR FAILURES

Exodus 32:21, *[Moses] said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?" 22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. 23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' 24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"*

2) We Become WHAT WE WORSHIP

Exodus 32:7, *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves understand that I need to become more in tune with comm schedules and deadlines, no doubt. My efforts will not breach the scope of understood quality and timeliness going forward.

You and I haven’t communicated very well, and still continue to struggle in this regard. I will do everything I can to be as thorough as I can be going forward.

I have absolutely carried a few efforts that have not been Comm centric beyond what was asked, but they were absolutely church focused, and I’d like a chance to tell you more about them. I believe it’s why God placed me here for this time. I have more to say, and I need to say it, because back to communication, you should be clear on everything your team has accomplished so you can represent that to senior staff. It probably seems pointless to you at this point, but please don’t close this discussion out. Since we had my performance meeting, my wife had three straight days of anesthesia, followed by three straight days of extended family in the house. I’m literally trying to finish this at 2:30 Monday morning.

Sorry for putting you in an odd spot regarding this stuff.

Chriss an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’ 9 “I have seen these people,” the Lord said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people.*

3) We Stand CONDEMNED WITHOUT A MEDIATOR

Exodus 32:10, *Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”*

Exodus 32:11, *But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he*

brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'"

Exodus 32:14, *Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.*

Exodus 32:30, *The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." 31 So Moses went back to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."*

Exodus 32:19, *When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. 20 And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it. (c.f. Nm 20:7-12)*

Hebrews 9:13, *The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! 15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*

4) We Will FACE THE HOLY GOD

Exodus 33:18, *Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." 19 And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy*

on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." 21 Then the Lord said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.

Exodus 34:5, *Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." 8 Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. 9 "Lord," he said, "if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance."*

Exodus 34:29, *When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.*