Do We Worship Golden Calf?

Greg Kline · Exodus 32:1–35

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes we're so focused on something that we miss out on the obvious obstacles.
- You look at them and you say, especially with the Israelites, how could you do that? After all God has done for you, how could you turn your back on him like that?

1 Moses Was on the Mountain With God

Exodus 32:1; Exodus 20:1–5; Exodus 24:15–18

- When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, make us gods who shall go before us.
- Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
- We know where he is. He's up on the mountain. Whose glory is he in? God's. He is with the presence of God.

2 Consider Where They Were From

- We need to remember they were from Egypt. And what that means is they were used to idolatry.
- The man who has led you, appointed by God, has now been missing for a month.
- I think we'd be very wise to consider in our own lives what our history is, how our mindsets, our opinions have been shaped and molded.

3 We Worship the Golden Calf

- I'd like to suggest to you this morning that we do this same thing. We worship the golden calf.
- The problem is removing God from his headship, removing God from receiving all praise, all adoration and all glory, and replacing it with anything else.
- What is your symbol of faith? If it is anything but God, it will be removed and it will be crushed in this lifetime.
- The church does not save, the elders do not save. Jesus, his blood, paid the penalty for your death. Jesus saves.

4 Who Are the People Giving Credit for the Deliverance?

Exodus 32:1; 2 Corinthians 5:7

- The right answer is God delivered them from Egypt.
- That's the problem with idolatry in a nutshell. Anything that is not God has replaced God.
- God gave you that job. We didn't do anything. God provides for his people.
- We are to walk by faith, not by sight. The people of Israel wanted a physical God.

5 How the Story Ended

Exodus 32:7–14; Exodus 32:15–29; Exodus 32:30–35

- Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people.
- Here is Aaron's role in this. He was the leader, he let it happen. In fact, he engraved the image.
- Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me. And all the sons of Levi gathered around him.
- God punished them for their wickedness, for their idolatry. Because God had made a law and they didn't follow it.

6 Why the People Would Worship Idols

Exodus 24:18; 1 Samuel 8:4–9

- It's because the people wanted a physical God. They wanted something they could see.
- They probably felt distance from God.
- When we're claiming that God has left us, or we're wondering, where is God? Who do you think moved?
- Why the people would want idols is because perhaps other nations around them did it.
- I think we sometimes worship a box that emanates picture and sound.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **My question is, are you prepared to get up and get out of the filth? To stay out of it and to fight on the Lord's side this morning?**

MY NOTES