

Sermon Outline

THE GOLDEN CALF | Geoff Lin

Readings: Ex 32:1-35; Ex 33:12-34:7

- we belong to a bigger and better story
- it's not like Israel was any better or more deserving than Egypt
- assurance is found in God's character, not our conduct

1. The people get bored ... (Ex 32:1-6)

- why?!!!!

- Ex 20:19 ... Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die ...

- what the golden calf represents ...

Q. Why doesn't Aaron talk them down?

2. God proposes a fresh start with Moses (32:7-10)

- "a stiff-necked people" (v9)

- "Then I will make **you** into a great nation" (v10)

3. Moses intercedes for the people (32:11-14)

Q. What would you have done if you were Moses?

- Moses appeals to God on 2 grounds:

i. (v12) God's reputation

ii. (v13) God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Israel (ie Jacob)

Q. What does it mean for God to "relent"?

Num 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.

4. The people are spared (but there are still consequences) (32:15-35)

i. Aaron's explanation (vv21-24)

Q. How do we react when confronted with our sin?
A. Defensiveness? Denial? (re)-Definition? Despair?

ii. Moses continues to intercede for the people (vv30-33)

5. "Show me your glory ..." (33:12-34:7)

- "if you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you" (v13)

i. "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest (v14)

ii. God will show Moses His glory (vv18-23)

Ex 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."

- God's glory = God's goodness = proclamation of His name

- Moses chisels out an identical copy of the Ten Commandments

"If you obey me fully and keep my covenant then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession" (Ex 19:5)

Mt 26:28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

2 Tim 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. 10 Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

What I've learned (and my response)