

21ate: July 20, 2024
Series: Exodus: Seeing God in the Journey
Title: The Covenant, the Calf and the Consequences: No Other Gods
Text: Exodus 32; 18:11; 20:2-6

THE STORY

Moses Goes up the mountain.

People feel that he is delayed – impatient.

They choose to have a golden calf created; And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” (Ex. 32:4)

Aaron goes along with it and built an altar to this idol.

They feast and celebrate, eat and drink and play as they offering sacrifices to the idol.

God tells Moses what is happening and says they are corrupt (v7) and stiff-necked (v9). He says his wrath will burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you. (v10)

Moses implores the Lord and begs Him to turn from His burning anger and relent from this disaster against His people. (v12)

He reminds God of His promise and that the Egyptians will accuse God of evil.

God relents from total destruction (v14)

Moses comes down the mountain, meets Joshua, and as they head down the mountain Joshua think he hear battle cries, built Moses hears the people singing. (vs. 15-19)

Moses is so angry, he throws down the tablets of the law that the Lord had made and tears down the idol and burns it to powder. He scatters this powder in the water supply and forces the people to drink it (20)

Moses confronts Aaron, who blames the people, saying, “*Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.*” And that he did what was asked of him. (vs. 21-24)

Moses confronts the people and calls for anyone who is for the Lord to come to him. (vs. 25-26)

Ex. 32:25

And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me.”

The sons of Levi come to him and they are sent with Swords to punish the people – 3000 fell (vs. 27-30)

The next day Moses tells the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” (v30)

He returns up the mountain and confirms the sin of the people.

Ex. 32:32-33

³² But now, if you will, forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” ³³ But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.

God tells Moses to lead them to a place where he will guide them, by and angel, and He would visit their sin upon them. Then He sends a plague against them. (v35)

God tells them to leave Sinai and go the land that was promised, but says that He will NOT go up among them and that if he went with them, He would consume them all.

Ex. 33:3

Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."

The people mourn over the disaster of God's presence not going with them, and they strip themselves of their ornaments (33:1-3)

Moses and the people who would, sought the Lord every day at a tent outside the camp, and God spoke with Moses

Moses begs the Lord to be with them, saying, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. (v15)

God says He finds favor in Moses and knows Him by name.

Moses asks to see God's glory and His goodness and grace (vs. 18-19)

Ex. 33:18-19

¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

God says you cannot see Him lest he die, but GOD makes a place in the Crest of the Rock and that when God goes by, he would see His back. (vs. 20-23)

God tells Moses to make new tablets

God speaks to Moses saying,

Ex 34:6-7

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Moses asks the Lord to be in the midst of them (34:9)

God renews His covenant with the people (34:10-28)

Ex. 34:10-12, 15, 27

¹⁰ And he said, "Behold, I am making a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been created in all the earth or in any nation. - (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is

Jealous, is a jealous God), ^{11a} “Observe what I command you this day... ¹² Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land... ¹⁵ and when they whore after their gods ²⁷- And the Lord said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”

The Covenant - Means No Other: The Fulfillment of Sincere Promise

Exodus 18:11

Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people.

Ex. 20:2-6

² “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

The Calf: The Fall of a stiff-necked people

The Choice when God delays Ex 32:1-6

Impatience v 1

- *When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain*

Collaboration v1

- *the people gathered themselves together to Aaron*
- Aaron involved
 - *So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”*
- The people involved

Substitution vs. 1, 4

- *“Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”*
- *And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”*

Delusion v6

And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings.

Celebration v5-6b

- *Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.*
- *And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.*

The Consequence: Foolish Choices Will Be Found Out Ex 32:7-10

Recognition – God knows v7-8

- *People have corrupted themselves.*
- *They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them.*

- *They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'*"

Resolution: You Broke It! v 9

- You want to corrupt yourself?
- You want to turn away?
- You want to worship other gods?
- You want to give credit to false gods and not acknowledge MY hand?
- GO FOR IT!
- "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people.

Results: You're On Your Own v 10

- *Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."*
- 33:3 – *"Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; but I will not go up among you, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people."*
- I will do what I said regarding the land – but not with this people

The Correction: The Focus of Serious Prayer - 32:11-14

Godly Response

- Prayer to the Lord
- One: 32:11-14
 - *Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people*
 - *Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self,*
 - *And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.*
- Two: 32:15-26
 - Deal with the corruption – 32:15-20
 - Confront the leadership = 32:21-24
 - Call the People to repent
 - ²⁶ *then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me."*

When a marriage is broken we have to call on God first and always

Godly Repentance

Ex. 33:4-6

The mourned and ripped their clothes, they changed their ways.
They did all that God had told them to do.

This is repentance: A sincere grief that turns one's heart back in the right direction...
...That changes the behavior of the person.

In marriage, true brokenness must be there. No hard hearts, no justification, no rationalization. Humble repentance and a change of behavior may bring back a covenant.

Godly Renewal

Ex. 34:10-29

Restoration and renewal can be had. When we respond to the Lord and repent of our sins, He receives us.

Likewise in marriage, reconciliation is doable: but with repentance, forgiveness and a change in behavior.

RETURN TO A COVENANT HEART