

How Now, Gold Cow?

Intro/Review

- Centuries ago God had **predicted** to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that their descendants would be slaves in a foreign land, **promised** to **deliver** them out of slavery and that land, and **give** them the land of Canaan.
- Over the years as slaves in Egypt, most of the people worshipped the gods of the Egyptians. Yet some held to trusting in the God of their fathers.
- God raised up Moses. From slave, to prince, to murderer, to fugitive, to shepherd, to husband, to prophet, deliverer, and mediator.
- Through Moses, 10 plagues, Red Sea, bread from heaven, water from rock, quail from desert, Mt. Sinai to hear the will of God for God's people. **Psalm 106**
- God has been giving Moses the instructions for His people concerning the Tabernacle; where and how to worship Him, the priests; who would mediate for them, the angel/pillar; who has and would go before them to lead and protect them.
- All of this is about how to have relationship with God, who had every right to wipe out all of humanity, wanted to have relationship with His crown jewel of creation; us.
- **31:18** tells us how it's going with Moses and the Lord.

Exodus 32

32:1-6 Meanwhile...

- **32:1**
 - **gods** - elohim, same word often used for God. They wanted a physical representation of God, something they could look to. They wanted God in a form they were more used to. Not much has changed.
 - I want God to be... I want Jesus to be... (liberal and conservative extremes)
 - Instead of saying, "I want God to be..." just stop at "I want God. I want Jesus." **He has revealed Himself to us in His word, and through His Spirit.**
 - Who **brought** them out? After all the times of saying, "Whatever the Lord says we will do," they now write Moses and God off?
 - Signs were not enough.
 - People often criticize God for not doing enough to make Himself known.
 - Rich man and Lazarus, **though one were to rise from the dead...**
 - Resurrection is sign Jesus points doubters and followers to before and after it happens. Paul emphatically refers to it in **1 Cor. 15**.
 - Necessary to believe/trust in for salvation, **Romans 10:9-10**.
 - **This is really real! If it isn't, then nothing matters.**
 - Timing ways were not what they wanted. Disciples in **Acts 1**, Matthias. Wait in Jerusalem, **Acts 13** waited on the Spirit. Isaiah, they that wait upon the Lord.
 - **Don't try to make God's will happen in your own way and in your own time. You will get nothing but frustration, failure, and ultimately correction from a faithful God.**
- **32:2-6** Survey

32:7-14

- Whose people? Who brought them out? **Relented**. A test for Moses?

32:15-29

- **32:15-18** Possible Moses didn't really believe God? Thought it was a test?
- **32:19-20** Moses sees it for himself and flips, rightfully so.
- **32:21-29**
 - **32:21** Moses gives Aaron the benefit of the doubt.
 - **32:22-24** Aaron blames the people, and says the gold cow is the result of a miracle, like the others God has been doing.
 - **32:25-29**
 - Remember, if God sounds harsh it's because we don't understand how ugly and offensive sin is the Him.
 - Counting the cost. **Luke 14:25-33**. Is God going to ask you to kill people? No, but **the more seriously you take this relationship, the more isolating it can and will be**. Paul experienced this. Like dating and marriage/children.

32:30-35

- What is this book? Lamb's Book of Life. A reservation book, not book containing actions. Not God's judgment to determine guilt or innocence, but sentencing.
- Unrepentant sin has its price; death. Not accidentally un-repented, but sin that says, "Forget you, Lord."
- **What is repentance? Doing an "about face" away from sin and toward the Lord.**
- **Why does God do this by action or inaction? To get our attention so that we will repent and come back to that love relationship with Him.**

Exodus 33

33:1-6

- Feeling bad, even to the point of outward action, but not quite repentance.

33:7-11

- Not THE Tabernacle, but a temporary until the final one was built. Purpose was for those who **sought the Lord**.
- Do you seek the Lord? What do you do to get His attention? "Look what I can do!" "Look at how humble I'm being!"
- **God is attracted to weakness, to "Here I am, such as I am." Psalm 51:16-17.**

33:12-23

- As much of the Lord Moses already had, he knew he needed more if he were to continue to do what the Lord was calling Him to do. **It's never enough.**

Exodus 34

34:1-9

- Highlight **6-7**, false teaching of generational curses and blessings.

34:10-28

- **34:10-17** Highlight idolatry and spiritual adultery. **1 John 5:21**. Relationship!
- **34:18-26** Review of stuff we've already covered.

34:29-35

- Is the time you spend in (not just with) the Lord visibly manifested in your life?
- How people look and act when they are in love.
- How people look and act based on how they eat.

Wrap up

- God knew that we would be in slavery, slaves to sin, held accountable. **Romans 6.**
- God has worked a miracle to set us free from our slavery and deliver us into a new land. Jesus' resurrection is that miracle, walking in newness of life in the Spirit is that land, not to mention eternity.
- Are you still trying to have God your way? Are you recreating Jesus in your own image? That will only take you further away from Him and end in frustration and the consequences of your own actions.
- Even though we do this, God remains faithful to His promise. He continues to make available the Way to have relationship with Him. **Romans 5:8.**
- What are you going to put your trust in; the work of your own hands that is going to be burned up, melted down and ground into powder, or the work of God that is freely available and will last forever?