

Exodus 32:1-10

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.”

Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 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.”

When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves 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.’

“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. 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 32:1-10*

Notes



Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Exodus 32:1–10. What is something that spoke to you in last weekend's sermon? How has that impacted you?

The perceived delay in Moses coming off the mountain was the catalyst for Israel to take matters into their own hands. How do you typically respond when the timeframe of life isn't fitting your timeframe?

You're probably not tempted to make a golden calf, but what (or who) are you tempted to set above God (idolize) when things aren't going as you planned?

Thank God today for the example of the Israelites. Thank Him for the opportunity to use their story to learn about yourself. Talk to God about the ways you struggle with taking control when you don't feel like He is working. Ask Him to help you grow in faith in His ways and His timing.

Tuesday

Please read Colossians 3:1–5. How does this passage describe idolatry?

According to Colossians 3, what is the antidote to idolatry?

How do you think setting your mind on things above helps you resist idolatry?

In what area of your life do you need to practice this right now?

Thank God today that He has given us something (Someone!) else to think about! Pray for the mental and emotional discipline to set your mind on things above.

Wednesday

Please read 1 Peter 4:1–3. How does this passage explain the exchange between idolatry and godly living?

How does “arming yourself with the same attitude” as Jesus help you grow closer to God and help idolatry lose its appeal?

What attitude of Jesus' do you want to focus on “arming yourself” with this week?

Thank God today for Jesus' example. Ask God to help you focus more on Jesus' attitude and example this week. Pray that as you focus more on Him your will grow closer to Him and your relationships will be positively impacted.

Thursday

Please read Psalm 106:19–48. What do you learn about Israel's history and God's response in this passage?

How does it encourage you to know God didn't abandon Israel through all its ups and downs?

How could recalling God's faithfulness and praising Him move away from idolizing something or someone else?

Thank God today for His faithfulness to you. Thank Him for not ever leaving you! Ask God today help you replace your desire to idolize with a desire to praise Him.

Friday

Please read 1 Samuel 12:20–24. Israel struggled with idolatry throughout its history. How does Samuel describe idolatry to Israel?

Verse 24 contains one of the best pieces of advice when it comes to turning away from idols: fear the Lord, serve Him and consider all He has done for you. Take some time today to pray through (and live out) those three things. Remember that fearing God isn't being afraid of God, it's being in awe of God.

Talk to God today about His majesty and power. Revel in His awesomeness. Pray for a heart that desires to serve God and opportunities to do that! Spend time considering all that He has done for you. The list is long for all of us – enjoy thanking God for as much as you can think of!

Saturday

Please read Psalm 100. Write down the ways the psalmist encourages us to worship God in this passage. How can you do that today?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will use Rene to encourage and challenge us all to go deeper in our commitments to God and others. Please pray that even though it's the Wharf-to-Wharf tomorrow, lots of folks will come out to church!



Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
Colossians 3:1–2