Exodus 32:1-6 Creating Supplements for God

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for 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.”2 And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”
5 So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord.” 6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Pray

When our kids were teenagers and Denise and I would be gone somewhere

A)Our kids would often text us – Hey what time are you going to be home?

B)We knew that usually meant one of two things –
1)they were doing something that they didn’t want us to know about

C)Or – most of the time: The house was a mess
1)and they wanted to know how much time they had to get it cleaned up.

Saying: When the parents are away the Kids are going to play

A)That is what we see here in Exodus 32 – Moses the “parent” is away and the kids are going to play -

B)Four movements that we see in this story

- **The Perversion of God’s people.**
- **The Preparation of God’s leader**
- **The Correction of God’s people**
- **The Call of God’s people.**

C)We are going to look at the first one today – the other 3 on Wednesday night

The Perversion of God’s people.

A)The scene before us today in Exodus chapter 32 is sort of unbelievable

B)We have seen God move in the lives us these people in some incredible ways. –

C)Plagues and Deliverance / Red Sea / Cloud and Pillar
1)Morning Manna - Water from a Rock

D)Victory in Battle over the Amalekites

Arrive at Mt Siani - They have been camped at MT Siani for about 2 months

A)God expressed his heart them ch.19 – Be their God – bear them up and carry them on Eagles wings

B)Establish a Covenant with them – Promises

1)Ch.24 they enthusiastically respond – all that God has said we will do – ALL IN

C)Moses leaves and goes back up on the MT with God and he is gone 40 days.

1) Personal retreat with God – gone 40 Days not months – years – 40 days –

D)And they people of Israel start to panic

The people of Israel had a Wait problem – Not Weight – But wait

A)Grew tired of waiting on God – and waiting on Moses

B)We don't know what happened to Him – maybe abandoned us

C)Their wait problem turns into a Faith problem They decide - We want a leader that we can see

D)So they ask Aaron "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for 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."

On the MT Moses is Receiving Revelation

A)Down below the MT the people resort to their imagination

B)God reveals himself to us in His Word –

C)We get Revelation of God's Character, Heart, His nature, His will, - in His Word.

1)His Word tells us – what He loves as well as what He hates

D)But when you push His Revelation aside – when you ignore his revelation – you turn to imagination

1)**you are left to make it up as you go along - do what is right in your own eyes that = TROUBLE**

So Aaron asked them for their gold – this is the stuff they got from the Egyptians when leaving –

A)Aaron takes the gold puts it into the fire – fashions a golden calf

V.4 Then they said, (Whoever was helping Aaron) "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

B)Then Aaron builds an Altar before the calf and declares tomorrow is going to be a feast to the Lord

C)And the people go wild - ." 6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

D)That phrase Rose up to play – has a connotation of being involved in illicit immoral sexual behavior,
1)the kind of worship practices that the Egyptians Canaanites often practiced

Later in the passage V25 we read that the people were unrestrained
A)The idea there according to Old Testament Scholar Walter C Kaiser – the people uncovered themselves and engaged in religious prostitution

B) Some Scholars take that to mean – they are getting naked –
1)and there is like full blown Orge type stuff going on here

C)You know in our modern culture we regard the absence of restraint as heaven on earth.

E)But the Bible and common sense tell us that this kind of moral, spiritual,
1)and social anarchy brings nothing but destruction.

Told in Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

God has given many restraints to us in his Word!
A)But They are like curbs and guard rails and speed limits to keep us from driving our lives off a cliff

B)God's restraints are to protect us – not stifle us -

C)**They are meant to help us walk in the fear of the Lord – to live our lives in a way – that glories God**

D)The Children of Israel- cast off all restraints and it turned into a wild free for all of perversion

This story makes us wonder – how did this happen so fast?
A)One minute they are making a vow to God –

B)40 days later they have cast off all restraint and jumped off a cliff into Hedonism?
1)How is that possible

C)This is the result of what I would call – Spiritual Entropy

Spiritual entropy is the natural, steady drift of the human nature,
A)Toward disorder, decay and destruction when our heart is left unattended.

B))Just as the second law of thermodynamics states that physical systems naturally move from order to chaos unless energy is added,

C)Spiritual entropy suggests that the inner life does not remain neutral; when left on autopilot

Without intentional effort, and Discipline
A)it degrades into apathy, selfishness, or spiritual disconnection.

B)Proverbs 4:23 [23]Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it *spring* the issues of life.

C)**If we don't guard our hearts we will be prone to fall into Idolatry**

For the remainder of our time today

A)I want us to consider three things this passage teaches us about Idolatry

B)#1 The sin behind all other sins (our root sin) is idolatry

Now there is something I want you to see here:
A)Why did Aaron make a golden calf – why did he choose a calf – not a Lion or a bear.

B)Well in Egypt one of the Main gods was Apis – the Bull god –

C)So Aaron is just copying what he saw in the World – but notice again what he says in V.4 This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

D)Note this: The golden calf wasn't so much a replacement of God as it was a supplement to God.
1)That often is what Idolatry looks like - **Supplement**

Friends learn this: The Enemy's great temptation in your life is not to get you to outright reject God,
A)But to supplement your trust in him with something else?

B)When the enemy comes at us to tempt us,
1)it's not usually in the form of you have to choose between God or this.

C)No he likes to get us to think – you can have God and this too.

That is what happened to Eve in the Garden of Eden – Satan appears as the talking Serpent – Jungle book
A)He doesn't say to her - "Hey, there is no God, you should become an atheist,

B)He says: Eating of that fruit isn't going to kill you like God says -It is COMPLETE YOU –
1)You will become like God

C)Your eyes are going to be open and you will know the difference between good and evil.

That is the temptation that we are presented with all the time.
A)Where we think – God I am so glad that I am saved and I have you

B)But in order for me to feel complete – satisfied – secure – I also need this in my life

"An idol is anything you require, in addition to God, to feel secure and complete in life." Pastor J.D. Greear

B)Idols are not always made of bad things – They can be a good thing that you make into the ultimate thing

"What is an idol? An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give you… A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living." Timothy Keller

C)The Hebrew word for worship is the word Kabod – means weight –
1)so an idol or the thing that you seek to supplement God with

D)It Is anything in your life that you give so much weight to
1)that you couldn't imagine being happy without it or until you get it.

When we do that Essentially what we are saying– is this God you are not enough –
A)Jesus you are not enough

B)Lord I am not abandoning you – still believe –
1)but I am going to ignore your revelation and pursue this supplement – TO HAPPY

So a single person might say: Lord I love you but in order to really be happy or complete:
A)I also need to be married

B)Listen marriage is great – married happily for 40 yrs but marriage did not complete me –
1)all the married people in the room – AMEN

C)**But our culture plays into this that mentality –**
1)I will not be happy or complete until I find my person – soul mate

Theme of every Hallmark movie – A girl is working in the city she has a great job making over 6 figures
A)She realizes on a trip home to her parents living in small town

B)that she is not going to be really happy until she finds true love – then she runs into her High School sweetheart

C)30 something and still not married – she ends up leaving the big city to marry him –
1)Manage a farm together – live happily ever after

D)Story line of every HM Christmas Movie -

There was a comedian who said over Christmas He watched a Hallmark movie backwards
A)A woman in an ugly Christmas sweater dumped her loser, small town boyfriend to pursue a law career in NYC where she **lived happily ever after in pencil skirts and amazing shoes."**

B)But listen - Romance and finding the right person becomes an idol for many people –

C)the thing that they seek to supplement God with in order to be complete, satisfied, secure,

D)I need a marriage that looks like this…. Marriage ideal

Or people think I need my kids to turn out well-college / successful -

A)Or I need to be financially well-off

B)I need To get to this certain place in my career

C)**Listen I am not saying that those goals or desires are wrong to have**

D)But when they turn into the things in we think are ultimately going to complete us and satisfy us
1)Bring to us our ultimate value – that is when those things become our golden calves

E)In that we are essentially saying to God – you are not enough

2. Idolatry begins in fear

A)Their fear, their lack of trust, is what drove them to idolatry!

B)Fear is often magnified in times of uncertainty – we don't know what has become of Moses –

C) Listen, that's always where it begins! My financial situation is uncertain
1)I can't trust God anymore – I need to do something
Cut this corner – or take that compromising Job

I am lonely and I don't think I am ever going to find my soul mate at church

A)I am going to cast off this restraint in God's word and date that unbeliever

B)My marriage isn't getting better – I want to be happy
1)I know adultery is wrong – but I think I have found by real soul mate in this person

C))My ministry isn't growing – I need to make a change
1)Tired of waiting on God to bless –

We have to learn that God's delays are not denials
A)if you don't learn to trust God in times of delay – Never going to make it'

B)There isn't a lot of faith required in our lives when everything is falling into place and going well.

C)Faith is required when there are delays – faith is required in the storms – Problems

D)**I've heard it said that the American Christian ideal is to be justified by faith**

1)but then never to have to show it again.

Listen if you're going to make it in the Christian life,

A)You have to learn to trust God when you can't see him or feel him.

B)**John declared this is the Victory that has overcome to the World – Our faith –**

1)not our feelings – Not our understanding

C))Paul said we are called to walk by Faith not by sight

We Walk by faith in the revelation of God –

A)The promises of God – not by sight not by feelings – not by miracles –

B)Faith in a faithful God who keeps his promises

D)Peter says, Your faith is the most valuable thing in your life--more precious than gold—

E))And the Journey we are on in this life is meant to grow our faith!

1)In the same way that their wilderness journey was meant to grow their faith

So Idolatry is the root of all other sins
Idolatry often begins with fear

#3 Our idols corrupt us

A)When the Bible says that the children of Israel became unrestrained here

B)Or they cast off all restraint

C)That Carries the idea that they became animalistic in their behavior

Animals follow their instincts – please themselves

A)So when I walk my dog he instinctively wants to mark his territory –

B)Make his Mark – All the other dogs to know that Reddington was here.

C)Sometimes he our walks become a tug of war because he wants to go poop in my neighbors yard –

1)No – off – Can't do that

But to him that grass looks so green and soft –

A)He can't read the signs – he doesn't know right from wrong.

B)Why do dogs smell each others butts -– So weird – instinct

C)A Female dog – he wants to get busy – No down – Crazy – Just following his instincts –

1)Just being a dog – Not a human babe

But the Bible says that you and I have been made different from the animals

A)Made in the image of God – made with a moral compass – made to know right and wrong

B)But when we ignore God's revelation – and give into our imagination

1)we become like animals - leads to hurt and destruction

C)Been said that you become like what you worship

When you worship money, you become greedy and anxious.

A)You wanna know if someone worships money? Those are the warning signs.

B)When you worship power you become controlling and manipulative…

C)When you worship pleasure, you become compulsive and develop addictive

1)behaviors and you become lazy or irresponsible.

D)When you worship your Physical appearance

1)You will be constantly comparing yourself to others and spending lots of money to take care of how you look

When you worship attention and need so bad to liked by others

A)You become boastful always trying to make yourself look good in the eyes of others

B)And you become jealous of people who are liked more than you

C)When you worship family, you become domineering and over protective

When you worship romance, you become lustful and never quite satisfied.

A)**When you worship winning, you become overly competitive and vengeful when you lose**

B)**There's an old Disney movie, called "Cool Runnings."**

C)It's the story of a Jamaican bobsled team

1)that competes, for the first time ever, in the Winter Olympics.

There's a scene in it where the captain of the team finds out something about their coach

A)Their coach who had won two gold medals – in the Olympics

B)But Years later got caught cheating and this really bothered the caption – Derice

C)So the captian asked his coach "Why'd you do it, coach?" Why did you cheat.

D)The coach responds, "It's quite simple, really: I had to win.
1)You see, I had made winning my whole life.

E)And when you make winning your whole life, you have to keep on winning, no matter what. –
1)You understand that?"

The captain replied "No, I don't understand, that coach.
A)You already had two gold medals. You already had it all!"

B)Then the coach said this: a gold medal is a wonderful thing.
But if "you're not enough without it, you'll never be enough with it."

C)Listen: Whatever you're not enough without, you won't be enough with.

D)And that emptiness will drive you to manipulate and cheat and steal
1)and become a different **kind of person** than God intends you to be

E)**So you become like what you worship**

But there is the good news in that statement –
A)When you worship God you become like him

B)The More we worship Jesus – more we seek to follow Him – the more we become like him

C)Jesus was the perfect Man – We will never be perfect – this side of heaven

D)But the more we worship – Jesus and pursue Jesus the more Christlike we become

Said of Peter and John – they could tell they had been with Jesus
A)That is the best thing that anyone could ever say about you or me – Tell been with Jesus

B)That brings me to my final thought for today – before we partake of communion

C)Jesus is our escape from idolatry

These people turned to idolatry because they God was delaying in bringing Moses back –
A)They started to doubt – they started to think that God had abandoned them

B)When things are not working out the way that we think they should in our lives
1)we can start to doubt as well – panic

C)Start to think that God is not enough – turn to other things

D)Take matters into our own hands

But God has an answer for our doubt and fear

A)God's final argument to our doubt and our fear found in the crucifixion and resurrection of his Son.

B)The Cross is the Ultimate demonstration of his Love

[8] But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

"The ultimate insult you can give to God after the cross and resurrection is to doubt his love for you and his assurance to fulfill every promise in your life. J.C. Ryle

C)**The Cross is the ultimate demonstration of his love**

D)And The Rez is the Ultimate proof that our faith is not in Vain

1)He is the God who keeps his promises

This week as I was studying

A)One of the commentators I was reading brought up something I had never thought about

B)Why did God wait until the 3rd day to bring Jesus back to life from the dead?

C)Crucified on Friday – Raised on the 3rd day – Sunday – why did he wait until Sunday ?

D)What was the purpose of Saturday?

Nothing happened on Saturday

Imagine how awful and sad and confusing Saturday must have been for the disciples?

A)**Why make them wait a full extra day for the resurrection?**

B)**There are many answers to that question – but this commentator brought up one I had never thought of**

C)He said one reason for the time gap of Saturday is because that time gap is a METAPHOR

1)for what our lives feel like now.

We can find ourselves in situations where there is a delay –

A)like Israel we can find ourselves wondering – where is Moses – where is God – abandoned us

B)On Saturday the Disciples probably felt – we spent the last 3 years of lives following Jesus for nothing!

C)Now he is dead! God what was that all about?

1)Has he forgotten us?

No, he hasn’t forgotten and no he’s not dead.

A)You’re just in a Saturday of waiting, but hang on, friend, Sunday always comes.

B)The cross and resurrection are God’s Biggest argument for us to trust him.

1)Trust his plan – trust his timing – He is writing a story that is going to blow your minds

C)**In that my heart can rest assured he knows what he is doing**