

The GOLDEN CALF

July 12, 2026

Bible Passage: Exodus 32

Introduction:

Big Idea: _____ goes horribly wrong when the _____ of our hearts is not right.

#1- _____ occurs when we set the terms for _____ worship (Exodus 32:1-6)

- _____ fueled their idolatry (1-4)
- Their impatience led them into _____ (5-6)

#2- Idolatry summons righteous _____ (Exodus 32:7-29,35)

- The decision to turn away from God will take you on a _____
- God is hard on idolatry, because it _____ us from the only one who can _____ us
- What does idolatry do? *Idolatry places what is merely human upon an altar. It therefore automatically diminishes the object of worship and reinforces the deep-down sentiment that there is nothing higher than the human, and nothing that stands in judgement over us.* -Roger Scruton

#3- Our idolatry reveals our need for someone to _____ in the _____ (Exodus 32:11-13; 25-31)

- Exodus 32:30 *The next day Moses said to 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."*
- The basis for Moses' appeal to God was the _____ and promises of God (11-13)
- **The people failed to remember the LORD, but He did not fail to remember His _____.**

TRUTH INTO ACTION

- **SEARCH YOUR HEART** - What are the potential idols in your life that can lead you away from the worship of God on His terms?
- Neglecting command #1 & #2 always results in catastrophic ruin. **THINK SOBERLY ABOUT YOUR LIFE DECISIONS!**
- Moses asked the question: Who is on the LORD'S SIDE? **Jesus is asking you the same question. COME TO JESUS!**

Fighter Memory Verse --

JULY

Isaiah 40:28-29

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Pray first



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily for Jesus. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

This lesson is a follow up to the sermon. Please take the time this week to work through it in your community group or around your own kitchen table.

Warm Up: Have you ever gone to great care to get something just right and then had somebody else destroy it? How did you respond?

1. Read Exodus 32:1-6

- How does the introduction of a “golden calf” cause their worship to go so horribly wrong? What’s really the problem with an idol?
- Does our impatience or disloyalty ever cause us to step away from God?
- How do idols cause us to worship God on “our own terms”? Do you think we’re pretty good at creating idols?
- What are the common idols in our culture? How are we in danger of also getting caught up in these?

2. Read Exodus 32:7-14

- How does God summarize what the people have done wrong?
- On what basis does Moses appeal to the Lord on Israel’s behalf? What do you think is going on when God “relents”? (Have a look at Numbers 23:19 and Jonah 3:10)

3. Read Exodus 32:15-20

- What was so special about the stone tablets that Moses brought down the mountain?
- How would you rate Moses’ leadership compared to Aaron’s? (see also Exodus 32:21-25)
- How is Jesus the greater Moses? In Jesus, how does mercy and judgment come flooding together?

Prayer: Father thank you for loving me and providing a way for my sin to be overcome through Jesus. Protect me from impatience that leads to idol building. In Jesus sweet name, AMEN!