Adult Bible Fellowship Sunday 21 September, 2025 "The GRAND NARRATIVE" week #8 Exodus 32 "WHY a Golden Calf Rebellion?" Epoch #2



1. Reluctance to TRUST God will PROVIDE

- a. DAILY Manna delivery from heaven... Exodus 16:20,27
- b. Sufficient Water... Marah (Exodus 15:22-25) Rephidim (Exodus 17:1-7)

How do I demonstrate my TRUST that God will provide what HE knows I need?

2. Reluctance to TRUST God will PROTECT

- a. Pharaoh's pursuing army... Exodus 14:10-14 (Red Sea)
- b. Amalekites attack for the water... Exodus 17:8-15 (Rephidim)

How do I demonstrate my TRUST that God will PROTECT me from what HE knows frightens me?

3. Reluctance to BE CLOSE to God or HEAR His voice!

- a. Israelites pull away from Mt Sinai and the voice of God... (Exodus 20:18-21)
- b. Moses went up to God (8 times) + 'tent of meeting' (Exodus 33:7-11)

When & why do I pull back from God or resist encounters with Him?

4. Short memories about God / Impatience with God / Need to SEE God

- a. Moses' 40 days with God led the Israelites to assume he died up there (Exodus 32:1)
- b. Despite visual evidence of God's Presence & Power; and SOUND of God's Voice: Cloud by day; Fire by night; plagues, Red Sea, Rephidim; Mt. Sinai encounter... they preferred a man-made image (golden calf)

What is my struggle in worship / nurturing my relationship with a GOD I can't see or hear?

5. Leadership failure of all but Moses & Joshua

- a. No leadership from the 70 leaders invited by God up Sinai (Exodus 24:9-11)
- b. No leadership from Aaron...actually facilitated building the golden calf (32:2-4)
- c. Blame...No responsibility from Aaron... 'out came this calf' (Exodus 32:21-24)

Where do I look for integrity/character/courage & spiritual leadership when I'm floundering?

The Results of the Golden Calf Rebellion / Rejection of God

- 1. Hard hearts of the people only hardened more... Numbers 11; 13/14; 16; 32
- 2. Moses ability to lead THEM required determined closeness with God (tent of meeting)
- 3. Joshua's future leadership required learning from Moses' closeness with God (Exodus33)
- 4. Aaron never developed into a trusted spiritual leader (Numbers 12 & Leviticus 10)