



March 3-4, 2018
Four Spiritual Flaws: Flaw #1

MESSAGE NOTES

Exodus 32

Flaw #1 – Having a consumer mindset with God

1. What is this flaw?
2. Why is it s a flaw?
3. How can I change this flaw?

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Reference:

Open in prayer and read Exodus 32.

Review:

What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. Some say consumerism in the church is defined by "Spirituality as a means toward personal fulfillment" with no real concern for holiness or devotion. Is it wrong to seek personal fulfillment in your faith? Why or why not?
2. The Israelites were apparently disappointed in God's "performance" on their behalf (Ex. 32:1). In fact, they not only rejected God, but also turned on Moses. How have you experienced similar disappointment with God or church leadership? What do you do when that happens?

3. Christianity is characterized by relationship with Jesus and with other followers. How does a consumerist mindset toward faith hamper our ability to develop both our relationship with Jesus and with other Christians?

4. One book says that "ministry in the U.S. is modeled primarily on capitalism with pastors functioning as a church's sales force, and evangelism as its marketing strategy." Do you agree with that? If it's true, is that bad? Explain.

5. Eugene Peterson says discipleship (the on-going process of following Jesus) is characterized by "a long obedience in the same direction." What shortcuts have you taken in the past to try to "microwave" spiritual growth?

6. In Exodus 32:9-14, Moses pleads for mercy on behalf of the people who had rejected both God and Moses' own leadership. Why do you think Moses would plead for mercy instead of judgment for the Israelites?

Respond/Reinforce:

Take inventory of your own life. In what ways do you see consumerism negatively affecting your faith? Discuss this with someone in your Life Group that you trust, and pray for each other.