

SO WHAT? (application): Here we move toward first-person pronouns as we begin to consider how we must respond to what God has said in His Word.

1. We look at the Israelites' tendency to play the role of the spiritual adulterer, and we shake our heads in sorrow and disbelief. This infidelity showed up even on their "honeymoon," just weeks after God had delivered them from Egypt. Under the leadership of Aaron, the first high priest, they created and worshiped the golden calf while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the Law. Put yourself back into their shoes: why were the people of God so quickly and repeatedly tempted to turn aside to worship other gods? What was the draw of idols for them?

2. Like those ancient Hebrews, we too are tempted to look to other things to provide for us what only God can provide: protection and provision. In making other things idols, we begin to organize our lives around the expectations of those idols; that is, we serve those idols just as surely as the pagans served their carved images.

- Tim Keller defines idolatry in a sense that resonates: an idol is any good thing that we think of as the Ultimate Thing. What are some of the good things that we are tempted to treat as the Ultimate Thing?
- What does it look like in our thinking and in our daily habits when we look to something besides God for protection and provision? How does idolatry warp both our minds and our behavior?
- We exercise caution in our everyday behavior: seatbelts when we drive, masks to contain the spread of contagion. What is the essential difference between **prudence** (wisely considering our ways) and **fear** that leads to idolatry (putting our confidence in something besides God)?

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