# I. INTRODUCTION

## [VIDEO FIRST]

### A. ILLUSTRATION

1. Several times, this has happened in this exact sequence
2. Read Bible - go upstairs to say good night - Love you - proud of you.
3. Why? Because you are my son. That's all the reason I need.
4. Not because he had a perfect day,

### B. THEME

1. Grace is God telling us he is proud of us simply because we are his.
2. Grace is not approval/dismissal of sin. Acceptance despite brokenness
3. Matt Chandler - You didn't eat your dinner, but you still get dessert.
4. **Today, I want us to see God's grace in the story of the Israelites and how it formed them into a people who rely upon that grace.**
5. **We are people sustained by God's grace.**

### C. PRAYER

1. Heavenly Father, I pray that you speak through me as only you can. That your words become my words. I ask that you alone receive the glory today as we contemplate what it means to be formed by your mercy and grace. May the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight. You are our rock and redeemer. May we see your glory in this place. And all God's people said, " Amen.

### D. TODAY

1. Today the people of God fail, and they fail big time.
2. What God has done up to this point.
3. Moses is on the mountain of God.
4. Down below, the people grow impatient. Lose focus. Respond foolishly.
5. The question is, what is God going to do?

### E. TRANSITION

1. To answer that question, we need to, as a people, see three things.
   a) We need to see how we are formed by the world
   b) How we are formed by God's grace
   c) And how we are formed by God's character.

## II. FORMED BY THE WORLD

### A. THE STORY

1. Backstory - Waiting on Moses - they go to Aaron - make us a god. People worship it,
   a) "Aaron builds an altar in front of this calf and declares, 'Tomorrow will be a feast to Yahweh."
   b) They've created an idol and somehow convinced themselves that they're still worshiping the LORD. - Stupid -
   c) Meanwhile, up on Mt. Sinai... God is aware.
2. **READ EXODUS 32:7-8**
   a) Israel very quickly defiled the first two words of God...

### B. INTERPRETATION

1. The problem of the golden calf
   a) This is a heart issue. Didn't take long to mess up.
   b) Lack of patience? Lack of trust? Stupidity?
   c) This is their original sin as a nation.
2. Israel's original sin
   a) The calf is the symptom. The problem is deeper. Core to human ex.
   b) They just want to fit in and be accepted by everyone else.
   c) Eventually, the nation gets there on a grand scale.
   d) "Generations later, they finally just say it out loud: Give us a king so that we can be like all the other nations.
   e) Different century, related issue, Same heart problem.
3. God called them to be distinct. They wanted to fit in.
   a) Called to be a holy nation - unique - set apart... want to be like...

### C. ILLUSTRATION

1. Got kids? Raised kids? Who was once a kid?
2. All kids reach the development where they stop seeking acceptance from their family and start seeking it from their peers.
3. Just be like their friends. - cell phone, shoes, watch movies and shows
4. As parents, we try to regulate this, but we do the same as adults.
5. Your truck didn't get any older when your neighbor pulled into his driveway with a new F-150.
   Your house didn't get any smaller when you walked into your friend's
6. What changed was what you saw.
7. This story shows us that even though they are different people, lived in different ages, and did different things, they still have the same heart.

## D. APPLICATION

1. What we see starts changing what we want
   a) What we want starts changing what we do
   b) And what we do eventually shapes who we become.

2. We have the same Sin in us
   a) Our culture values greed. It says more is good.
   b) Over-indulgence is self-care
   c) Upgrade now to have the latest.
   d) What used to be extravagant starts feeling normal
   e) Once it is normal, not having it feels like deprivation.

3. FEAR
   a) The fear of being different says: I need this to look like everyone else
   b) Fear of Missing out says: I need to experience what everyone else..
   c) Looks and experiences.
   d) Nothing will form your character more than what you see and do.
   e) That's what happens to Israel.
      (1) They no longer have to see Moses or hear God, so they say we need something.
   f) We need to answer: what are we repeatedly seeing and experiencing that is forming us more than the gospel of Jesus and the Spirit of God?

## E. TAKEAWAY

1. God called Israel to be different to be formed by him instead of by the nations around them.
2. Here's the point: **What we see and do will shape the people we become.**
3. We've all seen and done evil. We've all sinned and fallen short. What might feel good in the flesh breaks God's heart.

## F. TRANSITION

1. That's where the story goes next. God's heart is shattered, and he is angry about what Israel has done. So we jump back into the story.

## III. FORMED BY GOD'S GRACE

A. **TEXT** - **READ EXODUS 32:9-10**

**B. INTERPRETATION**

1. The Problem of Sin and God's Anger
   a) God hates it - devastates him - destroys creations - ruins homes - takes those away we love - a plague on humanity - creates a tension.
2. Vs. 10 - God's anger
   a) Vs. 10 - God is showing Moses and us that sin deserves judgment.
      (1) God wants to start over with Moses - makes you uneasy?
      (2) The phrase "Leave me alone" gives us a clue here - an invitation buried inside the command.
      (3) "Moses, this is what their sin deserves. What are you going to do
      (4) Moses gets the clue and steps in.

**C. TEXT - READ EXODUS 32:11-14**

**D. INTERPRETATION**

1. Moses intercedes
   a) Moses' argument to God
      (1) You rescued these people
      (2) What will Egypt think
      (3) Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? You promised them!
   b) It works!
      (1) Scholars scratch their heads - did God change his mind? Not the first time a situation like this has come up - Abraham and Sodom and Gomorrah
      (2) God consistently stands opposed to sin and consistently shows grace.
      (3) God's character is not changing even though his response might.
      (4) God's anger is real. Moses' prayer is real. And God's relenting is real.
   c) God's consistent relenting
      (1) This pattern will show up again...
         (a) Israel - promised land - Moses intercedes - God relents.
         (b) Ahab - humbles himself - God delays judgment.
         (c) Nineveh repents - God relents.
         (d) See the pattern?

(2) Sin is confronted - someone intercedes or people repent. God relents.

d) Relenting doesn't mean his original decision was mistaken. It means the relationship or situation has changed, so God's action toward it changes.

2. Moses sees

a) Comes down from Sinai with Joshua and two tablets with ten words.
   (1) Hears the music, sees the dancing, eyes spot the Golden Calf.
   (2) His anger does not relent - smashes 2 tablets.
   (3) Confronts Aaron, confronts the people.
   (4) Gathers the Levites to bring judgment on perpetrators; 3K die

b) The irony
   (1) God sees what they are doing and says I'm going to kill them all. Moses says, now wait just a minute.
   (2) Moses sees what they are doing and breaks the tablets, kills 3k.
   (3) Suddenly Moses understands God's anger.
   (4) A few hours earlier, Moses was pleading with God not to destroy
   (5) Now Moses sees for himself - understands - and he destroys.

## E. TAKEAWAY

1. Here's what Moses now understands: SIN IS SERIOUS.
   a) Can't see it as God does and treat it casually
   b) That's where repentance begins.
      (1) Moving in a new direction, changing allegiance, changing sides.
      (2) Repentance is when we finally agree with God about our sin and change our commitments.
      (3) Not hiding it, not defending it, not justifying, not explaining.
      (4) Repentance means running toward God with our sin and trusting that he will give us grace.
2. Here's the point
   a) Concluding we've been formed by the world...
   **b) Repentance opens us to be formed by God's grace.**

## F. TRANSITION

1. But what will we find when we get there?
2. What happens when guilty people turn back toward a holy God?
3. Moses is about to find out. He says, Show me your glory...

## IV. FORMED BY GOD'S CHARACTER

### A. TEXT

1. Tell the story of Moses wanting to see God.
   a) Moses returns to God again and again... five times for Israel.
      (1) Asks for survival, forgiveness, presence, continued relationship.
      (2) Then he asks to see God.
         (a) God, I'm thankful you're going to go with us, but that's not enough.
         (b) God, I want to know you...
         (c) And then gets even greedier...
         (d) God, show me your glory. God shakes his head and says, you do not know what you ask.
         (e) No one can see me and live.
         (f) But as Dr. Tony Evans once put it, "I'm going to pass before you, and you can't see my face, but I'll let you see my exhaust."
   b) Now picture 80-year-old Moses, hidden in a cleft of rock. Intimate scene. Imagine it?
   c) Verse 5 says - That the Lord descended in the cloud... I love it... and stood with him there. Can you imagine?
   d) Now comes God's declaration.

**2. READ EXODUS 34:6-7**

### B. INTERPRETATION

1. God's resume
   a) This is God's name. His name is YHWH - English Translations say LORD. - Name is power.
      (1) To be compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, abounding in...
   b) Not just his name... It's his resume.
      (1) Compassionate and gracious? We've seen it.
      (2) Slow to anger? We've seen it.
      (3) Forgiving? We felt it.
   c) But he is also JUST.
      (1) Will not leave the guilty unpunished. - Seen that too
      (2) God's love is bigger than we can imagine, but because of that love, he cannot ignore sin.
      (3) Maybe you think excusing sin is Grace. It's not. Sin is tragedy... the greatest tragedy in the human experience.
      (4) Grace comes in how he deals with sins past, present, and future.

2. Grace isn't only how we enter. It's also how we remain.
   a) When we talk about salvation... we talk about how we got saved.
   b) That's true. Salvation happened to us.
   c) But it is also something that IS happening to us right now.
   d) Because it isn't just grace that gets us through the gates of the KOG, it is grace that keeps us there.
   e) It's not just a ticket to glory; it is your seat in the throne room.
   **f) READ ROMANS 5:1-2**
      (1) Have been...
      (2) Into this grace in which we now stand... present.
   **g) READ TITUS 2:11-12**

**C. TAKEAWAY**

**1. God's grace TO us forms the character IN us to be people of grace BEYOND us.**

2. Guys, grace is not about getting out of hell. It is about getting in on God.
   a) His life, character, his compassion, his forgiveness, shaping us.
   b) We don't merely receive grace; we become people of grace.

**D. TRANSITION**

1. Israel never forgets this moment. They trust God's grace, and it comes back again and again

## V. LANDING

A. The Word of God becomes a Creed for Israel

1. These words become almost a creed for Israel.
   a) When everything falls apart, they come back to these words.
   b) When they rebel, when they're desperate, God shows mercy to their enemies- the same words.
   c) Exodus 34 echoes throughout the rest of the Old Testament.

2. Numbers 14 - grace for the disobedient
   a) Israel refuses to enter the promised land.
   b) Moses feeds God his own words back to him.
   **c) Read NUMBERS 14:17-19**

3. Psalm 86 - grace for the desperate
   a) David cries for help. Demands to be heard.
   **b) Read PSALM 86:15-16**

4. Jonah 4 - grace for the outsider.
   a) Jonah ran away because he knew God was gracious
   **b) Read JONAH 4:2**

### B. JOHN 1

1. Moses says - Show me your glory, God says Only my exhaust.
2. John says - we've seen his glory
   **a) READ John 1:14**
   b) Compassionate God has a face,
   c) Slow to anger, God has a face
   d) Abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, God has a face.
   e) His name is the Lord, the Lord.
   f) And when he is born and laid in a manger, he takes on a new name. Jesus. And at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is .... Who church?... the Lord

### C. PUNCHLINE

1. When you've blown it, made the golden calf again, formed by everything except God - repent and look to Jesus
2. **Because he is Grace, and Grace gets the final word.**

D. PRAYER

1. Heavenly Father, we are broken. We are sinful. But you are gracious and merciful and patient and slow to anger. You sent your Son to die in our place even though we did not deserve it, earn it, and at times were unappreciative of it. I pray that you lay on our hearts a desire to choose righteousness over what simply feels good. I ask that when we fail, you remind us of these words that carried Israel through its journey that led to Jesus: the Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love and faithfulness, keeping loyal love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.
2. And God's people said, Amen.

**IDES** - Phase 2 starts tomorrow; guests are arriving this evening. 5 people this week. 18 next.

**Praise Night** - This Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 pm. A nursery will be provided for toddlers age 3 and under only. Kids age 4 and up will be in the service.

**Fall Fellowship Meal** - Sunday, November 15. Meal provided (chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad) but we ask that you please bring a dessert to share. (please cut your dessert).