

The Golden Calf

EXODUS 32

Introduction: It Did Not Take Long...

- ▶ It did not take long for the people to **disobey** God (Exo. 20:19; 24:3, the 10 commandments)
- ▶ Moses was **missing**, but that was not the main problem (Aaron and the elders were still around to provide leadership)
- ▶ There are two main problems: their **head** (their understanding of God) and their **heart** (their longing of Egypt) (read Acts 7:37-42)



A Different Kind of Worship

- ▶ Specifically, here they broke the 2nd commandment on worshiping the **wrong way** (false doctrine) instead of the 1st commandment on worshiping the **wrong God** (idolatry)
- ▶ Aaron was offering (and the people were demanding) a **different religious experience**
- ▶ (Acts 7:41) Aaron offered them an opportunity to worship “the **works** of their hands” (and to contribute to it Exo. 32:2-3). (i.e. a contract)



1. **Head:** Their Misunderstanding of God

- ▶ **Misunderstanding** of who God is can lead to some serious problems (ill: 1 John 1:9, forgiveness)
- ▶ Their **ignorance** of God allowed Aaron to offer them a different set of **theology** (also 1 King 12:26-28). The same goes for many churches today (attractive).
- ▶ Our understanding of God is vital (Isa. 40:17-26), since we may approach God in a wrong way, or even worship the wrong God altogether.

2. Their **Heart** Was Still In Egypt



- ▶ (Acts 7:39) They were **longing** for Egypt, now seeking a way to go back, but why? (not slavery)
- ▶ They liked what they **knew**—the familiar **system** that they knew how to play (compared to the unknown)
- ▶ The comfort of the old self (ways) is that we had it figured out. (Eph. 4:22) We had **experience** in it.
- ▶ Faith in God requires us to trust in God in something that we have not yet experienced

Knowing and Longing for God



- ▶ These two things are what set apart the mature Christian (a **spiritual person** 1 Cor. 3:1)—the **experience** with God & the **understanding** of God
- ▶ (Col. 1:9-11) Wisdom (experience) and understanding are the basis of the fruit of the Spirit and our enduring joy in times of trouble
- ▶ Do you long to know God more and experience God in your daily life? If not, why not?

Conclusion

**THE LIVING
WORD OF GOD**



- ▶ (Read Exo. 34:1-8) A mature believer, like Moses, has **experience**(s) with God and has a deep and growing **understanding** of God. Do you?
- ▶ Is your understanding of God growing? Is it based on the word of God or some presupposition?
- ▶ Have you seen God **work** in your life? Answer your prayers? Or do you have an “Egypt” that you are holding in your heart?
- ▶ Jesus is **better** than Moses—**living Word** (Acts 7:38)